

THE BLAZER

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1

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Photo by Adam Tumino

Student Govt. springs into 2018

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

School isn't the only thing back in session for the spring.

After the winter break, JJC Student Government is beginning to enact their plans for the new semester. With Welcome Week festivities in the rear-view mirror, they are now focusing mainly on setting up Spirit Week.

It will be held from March 5 through 8, and the planning of each day's events is already in motion.

On Monday of Spirit Week, dodgeball will be held in the upstairs gym in G-Building. It will be from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday will likely feature a JJC Jeopardy trivia game, with the best performers receiving yet-to-be-determined prizes. Possible questions can range from JJC history to information about Student Government or the campus as a whole.

On Wednesday, a game day will be the main event. From 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., students can participate in a variety of card and party games.

See Student page 4

Students explore Mainstreet

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor



Professor James France speaks with a group of students at the social and behavioral sciences department's table on Feb. 1 at Mainstreet.

Photo by Adam Tumino

"Exploration is in our nature. We began as wanderers, and we are wanderers still."

So said the famous American astronomer Carl Sagan. Exploration is also what drives people to try new things and seek out new experiences.

Each semester at JJC, students explore the Mainstreet promotional fair in the main concourse in search of these experiences.

This semiannual event was held on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2018, and featured clubs, departments and organizations from all corners of JJC.

This semester's event was, fittingly, exploration-themed.

See Explore page 6

Full steam ahead for building repairs

BY JOSEPH CRUMP

Co-Editor



The excavation site outside of F-Building.

Photo by Adam Tumino

Around late November last year, a curious problem was observed outside the doors of F-Building, and near the entrance to G-Building.

Steam was coming from the ground.

"We were under the assumption that we had a problem, but weren't clearly

sure whether it was a bad steam line or possibly the insulation failed on the steam line," said John Jawor, the Superintendent of Facility Maintenance.

Confused and concerned, [word for position of leadership] excavated the area, discovering there were some problems with the piping in the vicinity.

See Repairs page 5

Wolves putting together solid campaign

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

The JJC Men's Basketball program is having, statistically, their best season in years.

They once again eclipsed the 20-win plateau for the season, reaching that milestone much earlier than usual.

The Wolves picked up win number 20 on Jan. 31 against

Madison College.

These 20 are accompanied by just six losses, and this record has the Wolves inching closer to a national ranking.

They received several votes in the ranking poll on Jan. 31, the day after they knocked off perennial rival Rock Valley on the road.

See Wolves page 11



Guard Austin Reed (23) gets set on defense against Harper.

Photo by Adam Tumino

Check out
what is
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issue

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Trump stays on brand, besmirches immigrants

President Donald Trump hit a presidential milestone on Jan. 30, when he delivered his first State of the Union address.

His speech has drawn criticism for the way it seemed to paint immigrant populations in a bad light, blaming them for gang violence and drug epidemics. Many of these claims have been debunked as false or misleading.

He also ruffled feathers by seemingly not understanding two major immigration programs he mentioned; the visa lottery and “chain migration.”

He suggested that these programs allow immigrants to enter the country from Mexico without being properly vetted or approved. Once again, basic facts disagree with the president’s words.

In his speech, Trump

said that the visa lottery “randomly hands out green cards without any regard for skill, merit, or the safety of American people.”

He seems to think that the visa lottery is like the literal lottery, where anyone can apply and win. This is just simply not true.

The visa lottery, according to PolitiFact, requires applicants to meet certain education and employment requirements. Those who may receive visas are indeed chosen randomly, but only from a pool of people who meet the requirements above.

After someone is selected, they still have to undergo additional screening and background checks before officially receiving their visa.

Trump painted the picture that this visa

process allows criminals and people who are unable to work can be selected to just come into America unchecked. This assertion is reckless and damaging to immigrant population.

Another hot-button topic surrounding immigration is the so-called “chain migration,” which is a term used to describe when immigrants sponsor family members to come to America.

Trump said in his speech that “a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives.”

This is, again, false. Immigrants who hold green cards can sponsor only a spouse and any unmarried children. If an immigrant becomes a citizen they can additionally sponsor parents, married children or any of their siblings.

Distant relatives like cousins, in-laws and nieces and nephews cannot be sponsored by family members in America.

Trump’s incorrect claims in these immigration issues follow his pattern of misrepresenting immigrant populations as dangerous and crime infested.

This type of xenophobia seems to be on the rise in mainstream society, and the damage it can possibly do to immigrants is frightening. Many immigrants are in fact hard working and law abiding, as immigrant crime rates are lower than those for natural Americans.

Perhaps Trump should focus on gun violence instead of non-existent immigration problems. There have been at least a dozen school shooting so far in 2018, and it has barely been a month.

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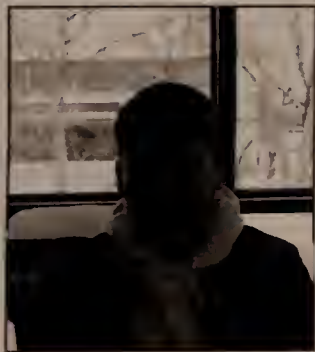
Question of the Issue:

Given the current president’s social media presence, and more frequent television appearances, do you think that televised speeches are still important? Why?



Danielle Robbins

“I still do think it’s important, because there are a lot of people in the country who are not on social media. I don’t really stay updated on the president’s social media. Sometimes it isn’t the best platform.”



Javier Juarez

“The only time I’d like to hear him speak is if we have huge issues going on within the country, versus his own personal opinions.”



Delanie Lasman

“I think it is important. In speeches they (presidents) can speak more about their plans and how they want to help the country.”



Tylar Cottrell

“They are definitely still important. People like to see someone talk, not always look at a screen. It’s important to hear things straight from the source.”

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Trump's SOTU was full of bull



BY JOSEPH CRUMP
Co-Editor

Frankly, I was dreading Trump's first State of the Union address. After hearing numerous long, winding speeches come from his face hole, I was almost certain the State of the Union address would be no different. Surprisingly, he actually delivered a coherent and linear speech that stayed on target. I was pleased with the delivery; it was a nice break from the usual crap. However, it wasn't all that different from Trump's usual antics. In standard fashion, he overstated the successes of his administration and congratulated himself for positive results that weren't a result of his actions. For example, his claim

of creating 2.4 million jobs was overstated by about 600,000. The real number of jobs created is somewhere around 1.8 million according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is also the lowest increase in job growth since 2010. This claim is more indicative of how well the country was doing before he took over. He's just riding off his predecessor's successes. He also claimed that we are "finally seeing rising wages" and are no longer struggling with wage stagnation. Wages have been increasing since 2014, and in the first year of his presidency the wage growth actually slowed a bit. Oh, and about his "largest tax cut in history" claim- that's total bull. According to the treasury department and CFRB, it will be around the eighth biggest, falling behind two separate tax cuts enacted by Obama. He continues to spout this "greatest tax cut" nonsense but continuing to say it won't make it any less false. Additionally, the vast majority of the wealth from the tax cuts will go to those earning more than \$200,000 a year, and the middle and lower classes won't be much better off for it. His claim of an estimated \$4,000 increased income for the average family is being slammed

by just about everyone. The economist, whose work helped in making the estimate, said it'll probably be closer to \$800, 20 percent the amount being touted by Trump. Don't even get me started on the clean coal crap. The loosening of environmental regulations is a lose-lose-LOSE situation for everyone. No coal is "clean." This is just a slightly less horrible type of coal. Let it die already so that we can advance in our chase of more efficient and environmentally friendly energy. Also, what does he mean by that we are "now an exporter of energy"? We, as a country, have been an exporter of energy for a very long time. I don't even know what he's trying to do here, aside from talking himself up more. I won't be tackling the comments on immigration- those are discussed in this month's staff editorial. The most aggravating thing about the speech wasn't even due to the President himself, no. It wasn't the transparent lies, overstatements or even his big dumb idiot face. It was the incessant clapping after about every single sentence. We get it, guys, you worship every word that comes out of Donald's mouth. But please, stop clapping so we can get this over with. Seriously, I think his speech



President Trump during his address on Jan. 30.
Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

took so long because of the 2 minutes of clapping after every complete thought the man finished. Well, finally, with this speech we've been officially promised with a big, beautiful wall which I have no idea how Trump plans to fund, with all the massive tax cuts his administration intends to impose. We don't need a damn wall. We need the other bureaucratic improvements to assist immigrants in becoming full-fledged citizens. Okay, I'm done complaining about the address now. I'll be honest and say I enjoyed the stories about Americans being stand-up citizens. And the story of the North Korean defector, Seong-ho, was truly inspirational and an interesting addition to the Address. I'll be honest, watching the address made me literally slam my head against my desk a couple times. But, hey, it could have been worse. Though I didn't completely hate this address, I'm not looking forward to another three speeches of this nature from Trump/

ADVERTISE IN THE JJC BLAZER

Are you a small business owner looking to advertise and bring in business?

Are you a professor trying to host an on-campus or local event?

Are you a JJC club wanting to promote an event that students should attend?

Are you a college looking trying to reach out to transfer students?

Advertising in the JJC Blazer is a great way to achieve promotion seen by thousands of staff, professors and students in the Joilet area.



Student from page 1

Spirit Week will come to an end on Thursday, and will feature laser tag in the lower-level of J-Building, where the similar Nerf war was held during last semester's Stress Relief Week.

But it's not just fun and games for Student Government. During the Feb. 1 meeting, other pressing matters were addressed.

New members need to be voted on and committee members need to be chosen.

Members of these committees will attend committee meetings all across campus to lend a student voice to all manner of JJC-related issues.

Volunteer opportunities and charitable efforts were also discussed at length during the meeting. Whether on campus or in the community, Student Government is looking to increase their influence.

For any students interested in being part of Student Government, there are open meetings held every Thursday school is in session.

The meetings are held in A-1002 and run from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Any and all JJC students are welcome to attend.



Tutor Jean Tyrell informs the audience about the TLC on Feb. 1.

Photo by Adam Tumino



The Student Government meeting in A-1002 on Feb. 1.

Photo by Adam Tumino

TLC holds seminar for students

BY MAIRE BURKETT
Staff Writer

The English tutors of the Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) hosted an event on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 called "Three Tutors on the Bridge."

The event ran from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. both days, and aimed to reach out to students at the beginning of this spring semester.

The resident English and writing tutors of the TLC gave

helpful presentations on the subject of note taking, time management, reading skills, and study strategies.

All the presentations were supplemented with useful pamphlets and delicious popcorn.

Some study strategies presented by Professor Cecilia Jackson highlighted the affectedness of using flashcards to study.

Also discussing the topic of time management, Jackson emphasized that time cannot be managed, but we can only manage ourselves.

Skills suggestions include underlining important information, making notes of things the student is not sure about and skimming before delving into the text.

Students were receptive of the information presented and glad for the assistance TLC offers.

"It's my first semester," said Jenifer Killackey. "Any help I can get is good."

Another JJC student, Katrina Aguilera, has been using the TLC's services.

"I originally went to the TLC for physics, showing me short cuts to help me solve the problems faster," Aguilera said. "And I just recently went to the Tutoring Center because I was preparing to write a college entrance essay."

The variety of services is appreciated by Aguilera.

"It's really helpful," she said. "It helped me in class and to get into college".

And to help with finding time to study, she showed a unique way of dividing ones' time into hours per week versus focusing on the time restraints of a day.

This technique will help by giving a student a better idea of where they spend their time and have a better idea as to how they can fit in studying.

Janis Shumac, a professional English tutor for the TLC, gave her part of the presentation on note taking.

Shumac pointed out that the key to good studying, in general, is to not working hard but working smart. Working smart can be accomplished by using effective note taking skills, which were demonstrated by Shumac.

Then Jean Tyrell gave a presentation on how to implement reading strategies and various skills to help students increase their comprehension and retention of read information.

The TLC's English and writing tutors promote students to make appointments with a tutor if any assistance is needed.

TLC offers services for not only reading and writing, but math and science as well.

It is advised to make an appointment and drop into TLC if any help is needed. It sure beats dropping or failing a class.

The TLC is located in C-2010, and more information on the services offered can be found in the office or on online.

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The TLC in room C-2010.

Photo by Adam Tumino

Repairs from page 1

It was uncertain whether there was a leak in the steam lines that heat the campus.

"Every time we found the pipe we never found an actual leak. Until we got to one point, further down, closer to the site entrance of G-Building where the outer jacket of the steam line had failed," said Jawor.

According to Jawor and Manager of Construction & Facility Planning Richard Lyman, the outer jacket of the steam lines had groundwater leak into them, and in turn "leak" steam out into the ground.

"We monitor how much water goes into the boilers and we also monitor how much water comes back, so if we're not losing any water, how are we losing steam?" Jawor said. "So it was kind of a perplexing situation that we were in."

While this faulty jacket would not cause significant problems in the near future, the college decided to take the opportunity to consider a revamp of the current heating system of the main campus.

"I think what we're doing here is taking an opportunity to capitalize on, I don't want to call it a catastrophic event because we still have heat, because it's not the actual carrier pipe that's compromised," said Lyman. "So,

"It was kind of a perplexing situation that we were in."

-John Jawor

we're taking an event, here, of damage and turning it into an opportunity."

Three options were considered. The first was to replace the faulty pipe.

Another was to put in a utility vault where sanitary, storm water piping, the utility belt and the pipe could be held and more easily maintained.

The third option, which was the one chosen, was to completely abandon the current steam boiler system and switch to smaller, individual condensing boilers.

"What it does, by going to these condensing boilers, ultimately is a cost-saving measure. It's more energy efficient to run condensing boilers than it is to run steam boilers," said Lyman.

The entire project has been estimated to cost \$2.5 million and will have to be completed by October of 2018 to have the heating systems up and running for the next heating season.

"It's roughly, between engineering, the demolition, and the new condensing boilers and

gas line, about \$2.5 million," said Lyman.

Additionally, the prospect of the smaller condensing boilers would remove the need for the giant steam boilers residing in the boiler house.

"These smaller ones are much more, they're maybe bigger than a washing machine, they're not really huge but they still have the capability to generate comparable heat," said Jawor.

According to Jawor, the boilers would not be noticeable around campus, either. They would be located in substations only accessible by the maintenance staff.

Overall, the condensing boilers are viewed as a good solution to the problem in the short term, and

a better long-term system for JJC as well.

"It's a win-win deal all around I think, for the school," said Jawor. "Again, it's an issue of what it's going to cost and how long is it going to take to do the job."

"It's aggressive," said Lyman. "It's not like winter time can come and we don't have heat here- it's not an option. We wouldn't be attempting it without thinking we could get it done"



The steam pipe access at the entrance to F-Building.

Photo by Adam Tumino

Police blotter

In-state warrant

Edward James Allen III of Bolingbrook was arrested Jan. 23 on an in-state warrant issued by DuPage County, according to

JJC police.

Allen was processed by JJCPCD then transported to the Will County Detention Facility, where he will be extradited by the DuPage County Sheriff's Office.

Centennial Commons Notice of Trespass

Kianna T. Campbell of Lockport and Nia L. Harris of Romeoville were issued a notice of trespass from the

Centennial Commons on Jan. 20 for attempting to trespass on the property and using a code to enter the main gate, according to JJC Police.

Campbell was issued a \$35 JJC Regulation Ticket for driving with expired vehicle registration. She and Harris were then escorted off the property.

According to JJC Police, Campbell confessed she obtained the code from Dawson Brewer, a former employee of the Commons.

Police said Brewer will be issued a \$50 Regulation Ticket and a student code for unauthorized use of electronics, disruption and failure to comply.

Unlawful possession of controlled substance

Kenneth G. Pierce of Shorewood was recently arrested for unlawful possession of controlled substance, according to JJC Police. The arresting officer discovered two clear glass vials with cocaine inside weighing 13 grams.

Pierce was also issued a State Citation for following too closely in traffic. He was transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility.

JJC Dreamer attends SOTU

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

When President Donald Trump delivered his first State of the Union address on Jan. 31, a member of the JJC community was in attendance on Capitol Hill.

Student Ana Campa Castillo was invited to accompany Congressman Bill Foster, a Democratic Representative from Illinois' 11th District.

Castillo is a DACA recipient, which is the highly contentious Obama-era act that allowed undocumented immigrants who came to America as children to work and live in the U.S.

The Blazer covered other JJC DACA recipients, also known as

Dreamers, in the issue published Oct. 11, 2017.

After hearing the president's speech, Castillo penned a response that was published in the Joliet Patch, in which she criticizes Trump's portrayal of Mexican-American immigrants and Dreamers.

"I am very disappointed to have heard the 45th president dismiss my community and I as criminals," she said in her statement.

Castillo also took issue with one of Trump's most controversial remarks.

"When he mentioned that Americans are dreamers too, he was insulting our humanity," she said.

"By saying that Americans are

dreamers makes us sound as if we were trying to steal their dream, when in fact we are working double time to get a solution for our status and breaking down barriers."

Congress has a deadline on Feb. 8 to vote for a new funding bill to avoid another government shutdown. One of the main roadblocks for the bill is the conundrum of what to do with DACA.

Many Dreamers are waiting to see what will happen, as the expiration of the program is set for March 5.

For more coverage of DACA and how it is affecting members of the JJC community, check for updates in upcoming issues of The Blazer.



The U.S. Capitol Building. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Prof. Jennifer Carey sharing her passion for science and teaching

BY LAUREN BULOW
Staff Writer

“The best teachers teach from the heart, not by the book”

Professor Jennifer Carey embodies this saying by spreading her passion for environmental sciences to her students.

From a young age Carey found herself in-tuned with the environment. Growing up, her family did not have a car, she remembers finding herself outdoors regularly as a child, walking and biking from place to place.

She soon fell in love with the nature she so often found herself in and wanted to learn everything about it.

After growing up in the Chicago suburbs, she went to school for her Bachelor’s degree at the University of Chicago, and then went forward to earn her Master’s degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology majoring in Environmental Management.

For the past fourteen years, she has taught both Biology 146 here at JJC, and Natural Science 111 at Moraine Valley Community College.

In both courses she explains how important the environment is, how it is affected by humans and how to conserve and protect it.

Carey’s favorite thing about teaching is “opening their [her student’s] eyes to the other species we coexist with,” she said. “In our society, we are kept indoors and so glued to our screens, that we don’t get the chance to interact with the other organisms we share the planet with.”

Between teaching classes, Carey enjoys hiking, bike riding and taking long walks with her dog Spike, “no matter the weather.”

One of her favorite quotes is written by John Muir, a philosopher who earned the nickname Father of the National Parks.

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world,” he said.

When asked what the biggest environmental issue is to her, Carey answered “the

disposable mentality.”

“We live in a throw-away society,” she said. “Although we recycle, we overlook aspects of consuming less. You might consume three water bottles a day, every day, how many billions of plastic bottles is that in the country?”

“Just because we recycle them doesn’t mean its okay to use that many.”

“Sure, recycling is good for the environment. But it’s consumption we have to be worried about. We all know the three R’s: Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Recycling is amazing, but we need to stop overlooking the first two.”

Carey hopes that by teaching these classes, she will spread environmental awareness to the future generations and help save the world one class at a time.



JJC’s Natural Science offices. Photo by Adam Tumino

Explore from page 1

Each day from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., tables lined the concourse, displaying tri-fold poster boards full of facts and photos and free snacks for passersby to grab.

But food was not the only recruitment tool being offered. Many clubs and organizations showcased their work, which explains the table full of prosthetic legs.

A miniature, inflatable R2-D2 drew attention to the robotics club and a video game setup attracted people to the JJC Gamers’ Club.

The spring semester is often more successful for club recruitment, especially for students in their first year on campus.

After settling in and feeling out the campus during the fall semester, many students are now ready to branch out and try new things.

But JJC is still a commuter campus, and finding students to stay on campus for longer than necessary is still difficult for many clubs.

The more specific, major-oriented clubs in particular have a hard time recruiting new members.

JJC student and representative for the Natural Science Club, Timea Sara, provided insight as to why some clubs have a harder time than others.

“It’s actually quite challenging to find members,” said Sara. “This year, only four of us started the club. We’re hoping to get more.”

The club is considering speaking with professors to possibly offer extra credit to students who join the club.

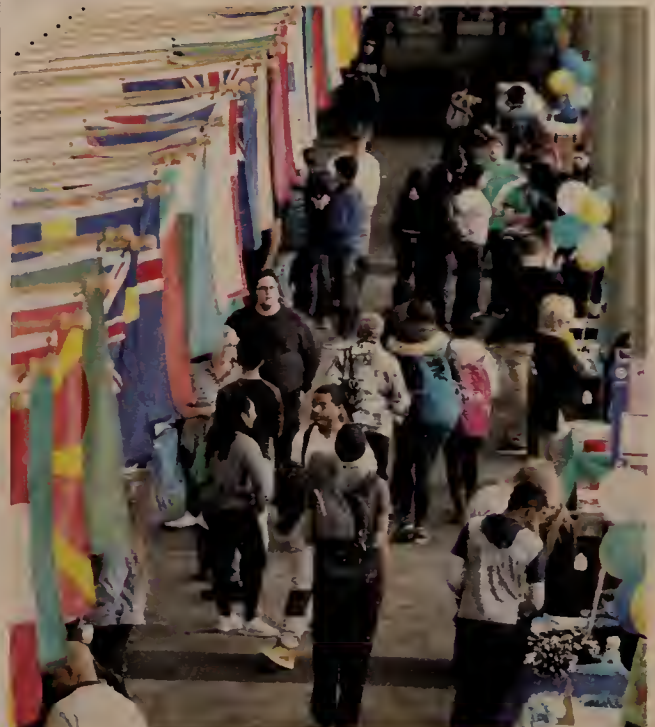
Sara is a biology major, and sees how a major-oriented club may be less popular than more wide-reaching ones.

For any students who missed out on Mainstreet, there is a schedule of the different clubs and organizations and their meeting schedules on the back of the monthly calendars provided by the Student Activities office.

Information can also be found online.



JJC’s clubs lining the concourse. Photo by Adam Tumino



The main concourse during Mainstreet. Photo by Adam Tumino

Black History Month Events

#Bleaching of Black Culture

Feb. 6

A-1107

12pm-1pm

Lecture Event. This lecture will examine the question: “What is Black culture and what has been stolen?” Part of the Black Perspective Series.

#Blacks & Dating

Feb. 14

A-1061

12pm-1pm

Discover issues, tips and solutions to dating from a cultural standpoint. Part of the Black Perspective Series.

M.O.B

Feb.15

A-1107

2pm-3pm

Learn about the history of Black wealth in America and the importance of balancing your finances as a college student

DuSable Museum

Feb. 27

Chicago

9 am-1pm

Join students and staff on a trip to the African American History Museum in Chicago.

Black Student Union Meets Wednesday in room A-1107 at 12pm to 1pm

Music dept. prepares for busy semester

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

The usually busy JJC Music Department is putting even more on its plate for the spring semester.

As always, there are the student recitals, Musica Viva concert series and the community ensemble concerts on the calendar. The Musica Viva concerts kick off first, with the first one being held on Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m.

The performing group will be the Northern Illinois University Steelband, which is an ensemble made up of nothing but steel drum players. It was the first steelband formed at an American university, and has become a world-renowned group. They have even played an event at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Now they will be playing at the JJC Fine Arts Theatre.

As is always the case with Musica Viva concerts, there is not cost for attending.

For those who are unaware, the steel drum is a metal percussion instrument that originated in Trinidad and Tobago, and is the national instrument in that nation. They are made out of metal that is bowl-shaped. The musician hits the inside of the bowl with mallets and can produce various pitches depending on where the drum is hit.

Steel drums originally out of oil barrels, but are now manufactured on their own. The second Musica Viva concert will be on March 25, and will feature JJC professor and multi-instrumentalist Rich Moore. He will be performing this concert on the clarinet.

The third and final Musica Viva concert will showcase a guest artist.

Mary Bowden, a trumpet player and JJC alumni, will play on April 8.

Afterwards, she will provide a free master class for high school and college students.

Student recitals will also be held each month. And at the end of the semester the community choir, jazz and concert bands will be performing their end-of-the-semester concerts.

"It's going to be a good semester," said professor and band director Charles Morgan.

He also mentioned a unique event that will be coming to JJC on April 10.

"It's called The Sessions," said Morgan. "It is a music business panel of people discussing the world of music business. It involves Billy Joel's drummer, top attorneys in the business world, composers. It's an amazing thing."

The Sessions only do 10 panels each year, and JJC will host one of those in 2018.

"It's going to be a very large event," said Morgan.

"We're just in the very beginning stages of planning it. It's going to be a recruitment tool for us.

We're bringing out high schools. Other colleges going to come in."

This opportunity can certainly help boost JJC's reputation as a destination for music students.

Performances and special events aside, the music department is continuing to grow their music technology and recording courses.

These courses give students hands-on experience with recording equipment and provide helpful work experience and internships.

"Numbers are going through the roof," said Morgan of enrollment in the courses. "We have students not only in the program. Some have graduated with their certificate, getting jobs and working. It's a magnificent facility."

These courses, Music 180 and Music 181, may have additional sessions soon if enrollment continues to increase.

Spring 2018 looks to be a very strong semester for JJC music. From concerts to panel to classes, there is something to interest every music student and music lover on campus.



A music dept. bulletin board in J-Building. Photo by Adam Tumino

Water Street Studios comes to JJC art gallery

BY BECCA DVORAK

Copy Editor

The Joliet Junior College gallery is showcasing the Water Street Studios Artists Collection here on campus.

The display is set up in J-Building in the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery, and the showcase offers outstanding works of art.

The exhibition of paintings and sculptures on display are honestly quite unique, and are recent works from the studios.

The collection offers many

interesting projects, and viewers are more than likely to find some type of work they find solace in.

Wonderful collages are being showcased that offer a different visual on women along with proposing an altered viewpoint on photography.

The gallery also presents a ceramic self-portrait that will make you question the viewpoint individuals have on themselves. Many unusual assemblage pieces are also brought to the light in the gallery.

"The Source Imperiled" by Joe B. Milosevich is the most unworldly assembly possibly

ever seen.

The assemblage offers pieces from unknown objects put together to form a wonderful piece of art.

Watercolor paintings are also on display among other forms of art. The work "Juicy" by artist Steve Sherrell presents beautiful colors with oil on canvas.

The exhibit attributes various forms of work from recent artists of the Water Street Studios of Batavia, Illinois.

The gallery opened to the public on Jan. 16, and will be in display through Feb. 9.

The gallery's hours are 8:00

a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery is also used frequently by JJC visual arts students.

It is a good opportunity for students and community members to see contemporary art, see new and creative mediums or just pass the time.

For those interested in art, or those who just simply need somewhere to ease their mind, visiting the Water Street Studios collection is a strong must.

You do not have to know anything about art to enjoy the exhibit. All you need is an open mind, sense of creativity and time to walk around and enjoy.



JJC art students explore the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery on Feb. 1.

Photo by Adam Tumino



Another view of the gallery.

Photo by Adam Tumino

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'The Last Jedi' soars over the rest of the series

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

Star Wars has been a cornerstone of popular culture all over the world for over four decades.

It is quite literally a universe of its own. Star Wars has been adventurous, humorous and uplifting.

But never before has it been so thrilling, vivid or emotionally impactful.

The midpoint of the Star Wars sequel trilogy, Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi" takes Star Wars to a new place. It is a daring film, especially by Star Wars standards.

It has also been very polarizing, with die-hard fans voicing their displeasure with the film. But film is art, and art is objective. I happen think "The Last Jedi" is a masterpiece that will redefine the Star Wars universe.

This film is clear in its purpose. It is leaving behind the original films and catapulting Star Wars into uncharted territory. It values progress over stagnation, survival over heroism and logic over passion.

Spoilers can be found from here on out. But it has been nearly two months since the film's release, so you might know them

already.

In the opening moments of the film, the small Resistance is evacuating their base before the arrival of the dreaded First Order, who outnumber and outclass the Resistance in nearly every way.

When a character delays the evacuation to attempt to take out one of the First Order's capital ships, he is scolded by General Leia Organa- the late Carrie Fisher, giving a wonderful final performance- for causing the Resistance to lose their entire bomber squadron.

This time, heroic deaths are shown as a reckless waste of valuable resources.

This sets the tone for the rest of the film. The Resistance must survive and advance.

But they need help, and this introduces the film's most engaging plot line.

Rey (Daisy Ridley) is followed throughout her seemingly fruitless attempt to recruit the reclusive Jedi Master Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) to return to the Resistance.

As we learned in the previous film, Luke hid himself away after he was betrayed by Kylo Ren and his attempt to rebuild the Jedi order disastrously failed.

Adam Driver gives the film's best performance as a broken down and deeply troubled Ren, who is torn from murdering his

father Han Solo.

Ridley effectively illustrates Rey's persistence to recruit Luke and her desire to control her powers.

And Hamill provides his best performance as Luke by far, especially in the scenes when he tries to explain to Rey why the Jedi must cease to exist.

And this is where the film lost many die-hard fans. They were unhappy with Luke's character arc.

Luckily for them, Luke is not real. So, you know, his choices do not mean that much in the big picture.

But also, from the perspective of the film, Luke is right. The Jedi must end.

All the Jedi did was sit idly by while Chancellor Palpatine created the Galactic Empire from scratch right under their noses. They failed, and so did Luke.

The Jedi cannot save the Resistance, but Rey can. She embraces her power and her passion for the Resistance, and leaves Luke alone, sulking in the rain.

And that moment is when the Star Wars franchise made its turn. It is moving away from the past. It is moving on from the Jedi and the Skywalker family.

It is time for a new generation of heroes to find their way. The past failed them. The Jedi

allowed to Empire to form. The Rebellion allowed the First Order to form.

And the Resistance is left to clean up the mess left by the previous seven films.

"The Last Jedi" also succeeds in inviting new fans into the franchise. The cast is diverse, in both ethnicity and gender.

No character embodies this better than the delightful new addition of Rose.

Rose is an outsider to the Resistance, a lowly maintenance worker who rises up to join the ranks of the heroes of the film.

Kelly Marie Tran is wonderful as Rose and, as a Vietnamese-American, represents the closing of Star Wars' racial divide.

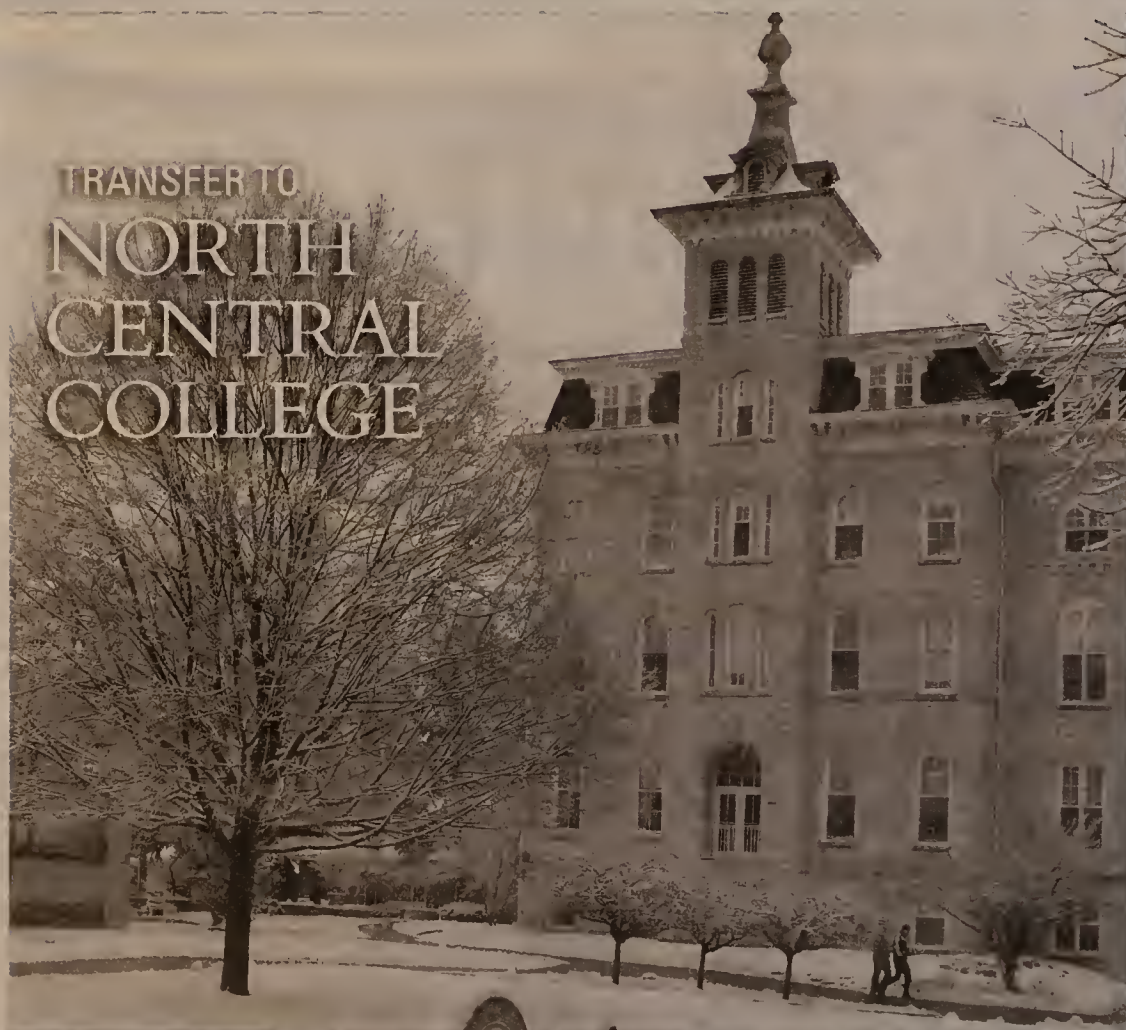
Representation in film is important, and "The Last Jedi" gets it. It brings us into a new realm of Star Wars, where anyone can be the hero.



Daisy Ridley in 'The Last Jedi.'

Photo courtesy of IMDB

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Hall of Fame justice? Not for all



BY ADAM TUMINO
Co-Editor

One of the most consistently controversial processes on the Major League Baseball calendar came to an end on Jan. 24, 2018. This is the date that the Hall of Fame class of 2018 was officially announced after the completion of the lengthy voting process. Four players were voted in this time. Former Braves' star Chipper Jones, slugger Jim Thome, the free-swinging Vladimir Guerrero and the closer Trevor Hoffman punched their tickets to Cooperstown. But Hall of Fame voting has long been scrutinized, and it certainly has its flaws.

But putting these problems aside for the moment, there are some players who missed out on the Hall this year, despite outstanding careers. Why they were overlooked is a mystery to me, and hopefully they will eventually make it. These players are, in order of career WAR from Baseball Reference: Mike Mussina, Larry Walker, Scott Rolen and Edgar Martinez. There is also a special case, Johan Santana, who fell off the ballot in his first year of eligibility. Mussina has perhaps the best case of any of the players mentioned above. His career WAR is measured at 83.0, which is the 58th highest all-time, and 1.2 wins higher than Nolan Ryan's career WAR. Mussina's 2,813 strikeouts are the 20th most of any pitcher in MLB history. He also pitched 139.2 playoff innings to the tune of a 3.42 ERA. He received 63.5% of the vote, falling well below the 75% threshold. Former Expos' and Rockies' slugger Larry Walker. His offensive numbers rank him among the game's greatest hitters. His career slash line of .313/.400/.565 stands out for sure. His batting average is 79th all-time, his on-base percentage

is 55th and his slugging is all the way up at 12th. Walker's OPS of .965 is the 16th best, and ranks above 2018 inductee Jim Thome and the great Willie Mays. Durability issues may have hurt his case, as Walker only had two seasons with more the 500 at-bats. But his offensive dominance when healthy should be enough to put him in Cooperstown. Despite this, Walker received only 34.1% of the vote in his eighth year on the ballot. In his first year of eligibility, former third-baseman Scott Rolen received a disheartening 10.2% of the vote. Rolen certainly deserves better. The former Phillies', Cardinals' and Reds' star boasts a career WAR of 70.0, which is higher than Hall of Famers Tim Lincecum and Tony Gwynn. Rolen's offensive numbers are not as impressive as Walker's, but a career slash line of .281//.364/.490 is still impressive. Much of Rolen's value was as a defender. His Defensive WAR of 20.6 puts him in the top 50 all-time best defensive players. As with Walker, durability may be an issue for some voters when it comes to Rolen's candidacy. In a 17-year career, he only had more than 500 at-bats seven times.

The most controversial person on my list is Edgar Martinez, the former Mariners' designated hitter. Some more old-school voters do not like the idea of a DH being in the Hall, but opinions seem to be shifting, and Martinez narrowly missed induction with 70.4% of the vote. Martinez was a solid defender when he did play the field, appearing in 562 games at third base. He was the DH in 1,403 games, and this is where he excelled. A career .418 on-base percentage is the 21st highest of all-time. His best season was 1995, when he hit .356, slugged .628 and posted an incredible .479 on-base percentage. Per 162 games in his career, he averaged 101 walks and 95 strikeouts, proving he was more than just your average swing-and-miss slugger. Now comes the interesting case of Johan Santana. His career was relatively short by Hall of Fame standards, as he only played 12 seasons. But they were an eventful 12 seasons. On the Twins for eight years and the Mets for four, Santana became a full time starting pitcher in his fifth season. He was very durable as a starter, starting 34, 33, 34, 33, 34, 25, 29 and 21

games to finish out his career. Santana's career is rather surprisingly similar to the career of Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax. Both were lefties with 12-year careers. Koufax outdid Santana in games and innings pitched, by margins of 397 to 360 and 2324.1 to 2025.2, respectively. As a result of more work and a slightly higher strikeout rate, Koufax had more career strikeouts than Santana. Koufax's WHIP of 1.106 is slightly better than Santana's 1.132. And Santana edges out Koufax in strikeout to walk ratio 3.51 to 2.93. Santana also has a higher career WAR (51.4) than Koufax (49.0). Santana unfortunately received just 2.4% of the vote in his first year on the ballot, which is below the 5% threshold to remain in the ballot going forward. So he will never be in Cooperstown, but his legitimacy as a pitcher should not be questioned. Maybe the other four players will make the Hall someday. With baseball's analytics movement continuing to grow, we may finally see some of the most deserving players get inducted.

Attention Sports Fans!

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Wolves from page 1



Coach Joe Kuhn addresses team during a timeout against Harper on Jan. 20. Photo by Adam Tumino

Rock Valley was the third-ranked team in NJCAA Division III before falling to the Wolves, and they dropped to ninth. The Wolves are just on the outside of the rankings, sitting at 11th place currently.

Rock Valley has been consistently one of the best teams in the country in recent years, and have been a thorn in the Wolves' side in Conference play. Rock Valley has in fact ended the Wolves' seasons in the conference tournament in back-to-back years.

These two teams will likely meet in the postseason once again in 2018, and JJC is bringing some of their best numbers in recent memory to the table.

The Wolves are scoring 87.2 points per game this season, an 8.9 point increase over last year. This number makes them the 16th highest-scoring offense in the nation.

The Wolves are also ranked highly in several other offensive categories: field goal percentage (24th), three point percentage (23rd), defensive rebounds per game (20th) and assists per game (9th).

"Our guys really showed what they are capable of."
-Joe Kuhn

Their defense is only allowing 63.8 points per game, giving them an average margin of victory of 23.4 points.

Their most dominant performance was on Dec. 12, which was a 122-79 victory for the Wolves.

In that game, Jarret Gmazel led the Wolves with 22 points.

He has been the Wolves' most productive player in his sophomore season, leading the team in points per game (17.4), minutes per game (25.3) and three point percentage (42.4%).

Gmazel has also made the 5th most threes in the nation, and his free-throw percentage of 87.7 is the 7th best.

Mitchell Kwasigroch is averaging 13.7 points and 6.8 rebounds per game and has the 26th most defensive rebounds in the country.

Quincy Butler is playing well-rounded basketball with averages of 13.8 points, 5.2

rebounds and 4 assists per game.

The Wolves' 7-3 conference record should put them in a good position for tournament play, and possibly a rematch with Rock Valley.

Head coach Joe Kuhn likes what he is seeing from his team, especially in tough games, like the ones against Rock Valley.

"This was a big win for us as we let our first meeting get away from us," said Kuhn via the JJC Athletic Department.

"Our guys really showed what they are capable of and the character they have."

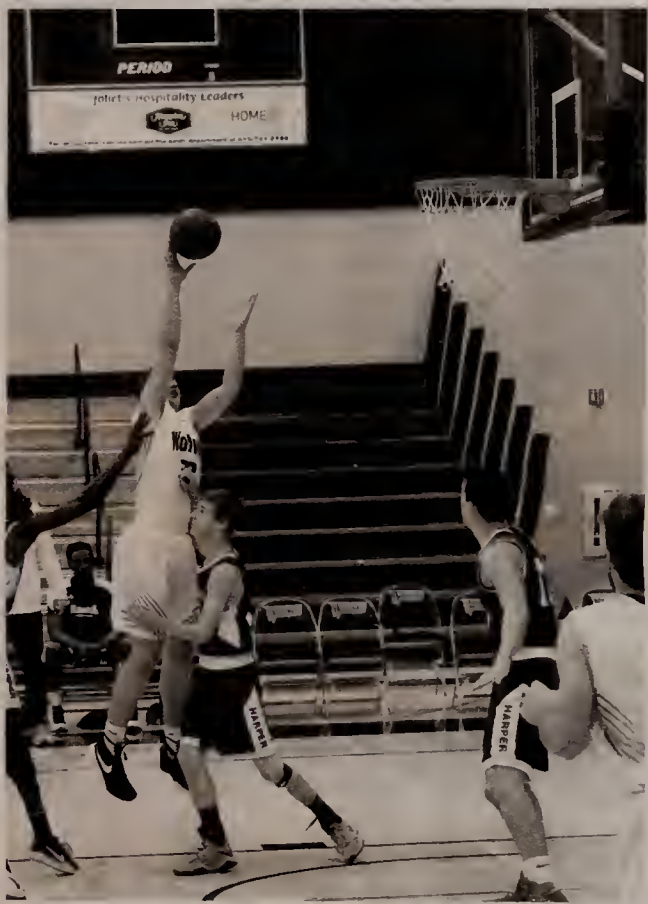
Tough wins in big situations are what the Wolves will need if they want to win a title.

"It is never easy to win on the road, especially against a very good program and in a playoff type environment," said Kuhn of the Rock Valley game.

It may not be easy, but the Wolves have made it look that way lately.



Chase Travis dives for a loose ball. Photo by Adam Tumino



Forward Mitchell Kwasigroch releases a hook shot over a Harper defender. Photo by Adam Tumino

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SPORTS

Lady Wolves fall out of top 10 rankings

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

After appearing in every in-season NJCAA Division III poll this season, the Jan. 30 poll dropped them out of the top-10 national rankings.

In order of the polling date, the 2017-18 campaign has seen the Lady Wolves ranked 2nd, 1st, 2nd, 10th, 8th and 5th.

A blowout loss on Jan. 27, against rival and current 6th-ranked team Rock Valley, is what caused the Lady Wolves' drop in rank.

After following this loss with another one against Madison, then beating Triton, the Lady Wolves' record sits at 19-7 overall and 5-5 conference record in the N4C.

Tough conference opponents are a factor in the five N4C losses, losing twice each to Madison and the previously mentioned Rock Valley.

Madison was ranked 9th in the preseason poll and 8th in the poll on Jan. 9.

The Lady Wolves' only other conference loss was an overtime loss to Triton College.

Playing in such a competitive

conference certainly makes things difficult, especially in the postseason.

Rock Valley ended the Lady Wolves' season in tournament play in 2015 and 2017, with Madison doing the same in 2016.

Although being ranked often this season, the Lady Wolves have actually seen a drop in scoring from 2016-17.

They are averaging 70.6 points per game, three points lower than last season's average. But they are giving just 57.5 points per game, giving them a sizeable margin of victory average.

The drop in scoring is partly caused by the fact that shots are just not dropping frequently enough.

The Lady Wolves are putting up 72.2 shots per game this year, the 9th highest rate in the nation. But their field goal percentage is 33rd at 36.8 percent.

As a result of these missed shots, the Lady Wolves are one of the nation's best offensive rebounding teams.

They are 9th in offensive rebounds per game with 19, and 12th in total rebounds per game.

Freshman forward Talia Edwards is leading the team in

rebounds per game (7.7) and field goal percentage (46.7).

The Lady Wolves' leading scorer this season is sophomore guard Deesha Brefford. She is averaging 16.3 points, 4.3 rebounds and 4.2 assists per game.

Destiny Villalejo is also having a solid sophomore campaign, with averages of 11.2 points and 4.7 rebounds.

But as a team, the Lady Wolves have especially stood out with their ball control numbers.

They are averaging 18.7 assists per game and 13.5 steals per game, the 7th and 8th most in the nation respectively.

Sophomore point guard Kianna Campbell is also thriving in these categories.

Her 122 total assists are the 8th most in the country, and her 111 steals are the 3rd most.

Campbell is the team's 2nd leading scorer, 3rd leading rebounder to go along with her team lead in assists.

She also has shown a proclivity for drawing fouls, as her 113 free throw attempts are the 20th most nationally.

Campbell's game averages are 13.2 points, 5.8 rebounds and

4.7 assists.

Solid defensive play and exceptional ball control have been the Lady Wolves' two greatest strengths and have spurred their winning ways.

If more shots drop in for the Lady Wolves come postseason play, they can be a tough team to beat, no matter how strong the conference opponents will be.



Head coach Shaun Sanderson.

Photo by Adam Tumino



Kianna Campbell drives against Harper.

Photo by Adam Tumino



Sophomore guard Destiny Villalejo plays defense against Harper on Jan. 20.

Photo by Adam Tumino

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Mens Basketball Quincey Butler



Sophomore guards Quincey Butler has been one of the Wolves' most productive players this season. On Jan. 24, Butler scored 20 points against Du Page. He also came up big against rival Rock Valley on Jan. 27. In that game, he scored 20 points and added five assists, four rebounds, four steals and two blocks.

Womens Basketball Kianna Campbell



Kianna Campbell has been putting together an impressive sophomore season for the Lady Wolves. Against Rock Valley on Jan. 27, she had a team high 22 points in a tough loss. A Feb. 3 game against Triton saw Campbell put up 17 points in a dominant win. On the season, she is one of the national leaders in assists and steals.

THE BLAZER

WEDNESDAY,

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2018

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Student Gov. hosts legislative forum

BY ADAM TUMINO
Co-Editor

Student government and state government became intertwined at JJC on March 28 when four local politicians participated in a legislative forum.

The event was held in room A-1002 between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and featured the politicians answering questions submitted by audience members.

In attendance were three Democrats and one Republican. Others were invited but were unable to make it.

Among the Democrats were Rep. Natalie Manley of the 98th District, Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant of the 49th District and Rep. John Connor of the 85th District.

The Republican attendee was Rep. David Welter of the 75th District.

The four were able to bring multiple perspectives to the forum.

Welter, 26, brought a millennial perspective to the table in addition to his more conservative viewpoints.

He expressed frustration with working on the minority side of the congress, where Illinois Republicans feel like they are unable to pass any legislation.

There were some moments of disagreement between Welter and the others, but the group stopped short of verbal sparring. They all seemed to have respectful and congenial relationships with each other.

They also each brought

See Forum page 5

Fen spared from development

BY JOSEPH CRUMP

Co-Editor



Pictured is the south edge of the fen on the north end of campus.

Photo by Adam Tumino

After many months of students and staff fighting against the proposal to build a road through the Fen, some progress has been made.

The Rock Run Development Community Advisory Group met on March 15 and, as of the meeting, has not recommended the fen road for further study.

In an email sent out to JJC staff, JJC President Judy Mitchell stated that "out of nine alternatives that were identified, only two are being recommended for further study."

The two alternatives include: a northerly route which would connect Houbolt Road to I-55 via McDonough Street or a route

See Fen page 6

Latinos Unidos bakes for scholarships

BY MAIRE BURKETT

Staff Writer

The only thing better than baked goods are baked good for a good cause.

This past Wed., March 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Latinos Unidos held a bake sale to raise funds for their Dreamers Scholarships that will be awarded to students during their May gala.

Numerous treats and goodies were on display and on sale at the Café curve in A-Building.

There were a wide variety of homemade treats available, from cupcakes, rice pudding topped with cinnamon, and the traditional snack duros de harina.

Crycal Rios, the secretary of Latinos Unidos, said that the

See Bake page 4



Photo by Adam Tumino

Students gathering around at the bake sale on March 28.

Baseball getting back into swing of things

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

The JJC baseball team is entering the middle of the season, and are off to a middling start.

The Wolves are 10-13 through the end of March, with a record of 0-2 in the conference.

As the season progresses and more conference games are

played, the Wolves may need to find more consistency to succeed.

Some of their losses have come against Division II opponents, and the Wolves competed well against tougher competition.

Despite some inconsistencies, the Wolves are still putting up

See Baseball page 11



Freshman shortstop Jackson Stulas gets set to hit.

Photo by Adam Tumino

Check out
what is
inside
this
issue

Play Preview
Page 8



Don't forget
to sign up
for summer
classes before
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closes!

Failed war on drugs, continued

In another staggering ten-steps-backward approach to the opioid epidemic occurring in the United States, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has instructed federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty whenever "appropriate" in drug related cases.

We don't know if this is an attempt by the current administration to follow in the footsteps of Rodrigo Duterte, the president of The Philippines, who has allowed citizens to legally kill anyone in possession of drugs, or if it is just a seriously misguided attempt to solve a widespread issue.

Our guess is that it is a little of both. President Trump praised Duterte's "unbelievable job" tackling his country's drug problem last March, and his administration is now pushing forward in the war against drugs.

The ignorance here is phenomenal. What does Sessions mean when he said

whenever the situation is "appropriate?" Assumedly, that would be in regard to drug dealers and traffickers.

Currently, there are only four situations in which the death penalty can be pursued in federal drug cases. These cases include: racketeering, usage of a firearm resulting in death during a drug trafficking crime, murder is committed as part of a crime enterprise and cases involving large quantities of drugs.

Cases where the death penalty can be sought regarding drug crimes are limited for a reason. The trials are difficult, cumbersome, expensive and lengthy. There are currently 61 federal prisoners on death row, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

The current administration's stance on drugs is already very aggressive, why even bring the death penalty into question? It is a waste of time and money to chase the death

penalty at a higher rate.

The drug war cannot be won in court with the justice system. Our country has been trying for years to put an end to the opioid epidemic. It has not succeeded. The situation continues to get worse and there is no headway whatsoever.

The solution does not come with sentencing more people to death. Was the purpose of the drug war not to save lives? Attempting to kill more people does not alleviate the problem.

Addiction is the enemy when it comes to drugs, especially opiates. And if you're wondering where to begin to look for whom to blame, look at the medicine industry and the over-prescribing of pain medication.

There needs to be a concerted effort to not prescribe as much pain medicine as it currently is. There needs to be additional focus on helping people

overcome their dependencies on opiates. There needs to be greater understanding that addiction is a disease, not a weakness.

We are making zero progress with Sessions' recent decree. Instead of burdening the taxpayers with even more expensive court cases, why not contribute to a long-term solution? For instance, state-sponsored rehabilitation centers.

Heck, even just spending more on awareness and education would probably put a dent in the number of opioid deaths.

The pushback needs to be against the addictions themselves, not the existence of the drugs. Things like heroin and fentanyl will never really go away. It is pointless to pretend that killing dealers will end the supply.

When there is a will, there is a way. And with addictions like these, there's certainly both.

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Question of the Issue:

How do you feel about the attorney general telling federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty in drug cases?



Jose Reyes

"For me it all depends on how big of a crime it was. If it's larger and ties back to other crimes that cause death then I do believe that should be. But I guess it all depends on the crime itself."



Olivia Grutzius

"I don't really have a solid opinion on it. I'm not a firm believer in the death penalty, unless the crime is so bad that it should warrant it. Take someone like Hitler, I know that's a really old example, but he would have been deserving of the death penalty for all the mass genocide. Or someone like Kim Jong un and his family. But if it's just a petty crime, no, they don't deserve the death penalty."



Ibukunolu Akande

"I don't think it's right because if they're targeting drug dealers specifically and trying to push the death penalty, most drug dealers are underage or up and coming. And I don't think it's right for them to try to get the death penalty for something if they're young. If they have their first offense, second offense, maybe. But if they're a hardcore drug dealer, they've got to put them in jail or something other than the death penalty."



Brandon Chaparro

"I don't feel too heavy on it. I feel like it's an issue- it's been stressed for a while and now that actions are happening, I think some like it, some don't. Me, myself, I just feel kind of unopposed about it, I guess. I don't have too much say into it. I'm kind of just in between. Sometimes I feel like justice should be served, but other times it feels like it shouldn't be that extreme."

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We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Facebook scandal troubling, not surprising



BY JOSEPH CRUMP
Co-Editor

Are you kidding me, Facebook? No, seriously, please tell me you're kidding.

You're really going to sit there and lie to our faces about this data leak and how you trusted Cambridge Analytica, a data mining and analysis company with an obvious political agenda, and how you're trying to make it seem that you're the poor pitiful little victims in this scandal?

Come on.

You sell data all the time to advertisers and other companies without giving a crap about what happens to it once it's sold. Seriously, "we trusted them to delete the data." COME ON.

We all know Facebook knew what was going on when it sold 50 million users' information to CA.

They were aware of the targeted political ads being posted. They were aware of to whom they sold the data and what that company does. If anyone believed for a second that Facebook was unaware of the uptick in targeted political ad traffic, they were blind.

Zuckerberg's post was four days late and pure bunkum. Don't play the victim. If you accepted responsibility for your mistake, people will be more willing to forgive you.

Now you've got congressional attention from all sides of the political spectrum. Well done.

Facebook knowingly allowed a foreign entity to influence an election. And only now after the damage has been done has Facebook banned CA from advertising on its platform.

Even though I believe wholeheartedly Facebook would do something like this without remorse, I'm still appalled by its actual occurrence.

It further enforces the reality that we are not people to companies.

We're not even faces in the crowd. We're all just potential money-making opportunities. I get that the point of running a business is to make money. I understand that unethical actions result in greater profits which, again, is the purpose of a company- profit.

Furthermore, are people

actually surprised about this data leak? Facebook has been collecting extensive data on its users and using it for targeted ad revenue since its creation.

It's been shown that Facebook tracks data on your phone and computer just by having the app downloaded or the web page open. They track every miniscule thing you do, just to show you targeted ads.

Want to know what's sad? They don't even have to use such extensive means to find this information.

People put their whole lives on Facebook. I don't understand why anyone feels the need to post pictures and updates about every tiny detail of their lives on social media platforms. For culture that claims to fight for individual privacy, we sure suck at keeping our lives private.

Facebook doesn't care about your privacy. They care about ad revenue, and what information about you they can sell to different companies.

And people just feed them this information because they

trust the company, for whatever reason.

The whole situation is absurd. I hope congress does pass legislation that enforces monitoring of social media platforms. What gets posted, what lies get spread and what damage it causes is unprecedented.

But sadly the government is going to be blamed for something if legislation gets passed. Don't get me wrong, I don't trust politicians either. However, I trust Facebook and companies like it even less.



Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Photo courtesy of Wikimediacommons

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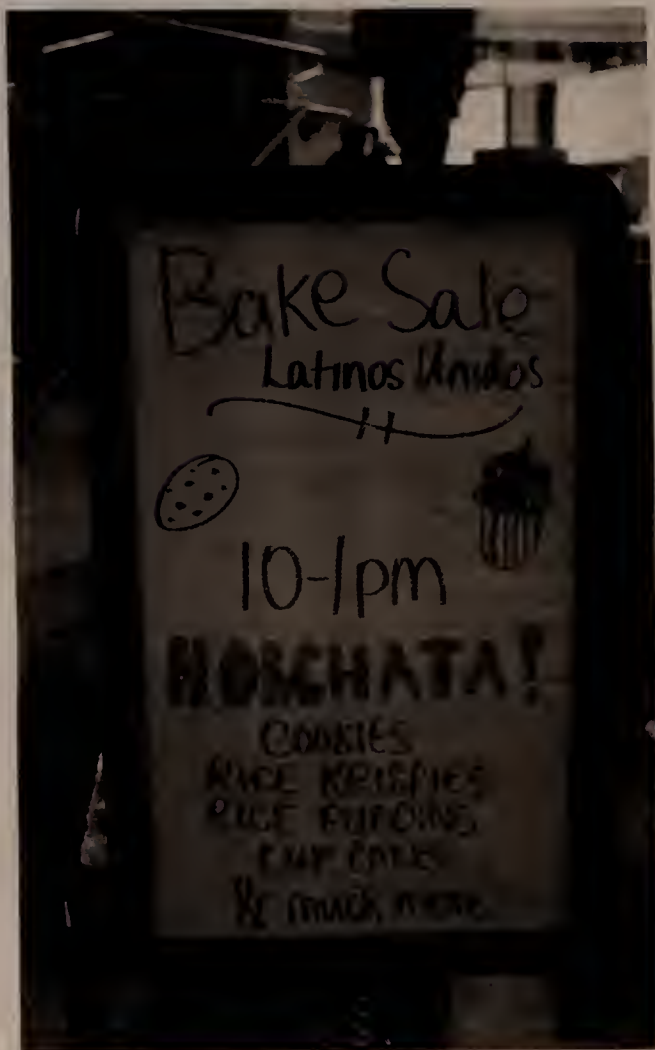
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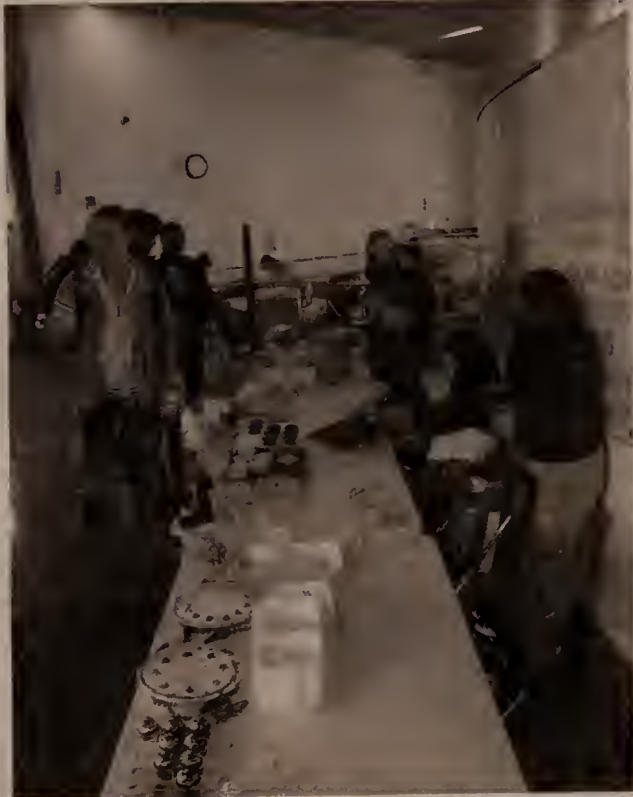
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Bake from page 1



Sign for bake sale on March 28.

Photo by Adam Tumino



The Latinos Unidos spread at the bake sale.

Photo by Adam Tumino

money raised will be used "to fund one of our biggest events, Dreaming for the Future, in May."

Melissa Zavala, the Latinos Unidos president added that the event will be "a scholarship benefit where we award the scholarship to students."

Latinos Unidos is the first club on campus to award student scholarships that are club-endowed.

"There will be dinner, live entertainment, guest speakers, and a reception," said Victor Xavier Colón, the vice president

of the club.

The event will be the sixth annual Dreaming for the Future hosted by the Latinos Unidos.

Each year two \$500 scholarships are awarded, and a special award is given to someone who is important in the community.

The funds raised at the gala will also go towards funding the scholarships.

With the help of local business sponsors, Latinos Unidos is able to put on a formal, fun and important event.

Meet JJC's dancing DJ

BY LAUREN BULOW

Staff Writer

Everyone at JJC knows the kid that dances outside the cafeteria, but not everyone knows Robert Jones.

Jones is 22 years old and a student here at JJC, getting his certificate of completion in music technology.

He is currently a DJ and has been for about six years, but he hopes to go further into the business by producing his own music. In his free time, Jones will go outside the cafeteria, plug in his earbuds, play some EDM and just dance.

No matter who is watching.

It is not an easy feat to dance so freely in public, in front of peers and teachers alike. But Jones has been doing it since his sophomore year of high school.

"It goes half and half with getting some sort of exercise," Jones said when asked why he dances. "Dancing is not as tiring as some other forms of exercise. And the other half would be an individual- to express who

I am to everyone, and still be anonymous."

However, he says that being anonymous is "a blessing and a curse."

He enjoys inspiring others, but "when I go outside, I'm 'the dancing kid.' Everyone knows me. But when I'm inside, no one tries to talk to me. Everyone just goes on their merry way, like I'm not even here."

Jones said that there are some students that will tell him that he is brave for doing something out of the social norm.

Every once in a while, some students will feel inspired to step outside their own comfort zones and even dance with him.

One of Jones' favorite parts about dancing in public is "getting people to smile. Get people out of bad moods. Sometimes, when people have bad days and they see me dancing, they'll come up to me and tell me that I got them out of their funk."

"Some of them tell me that I have helped them on a personal level that I can't really explain," he added.

"It is really, truly, an honor to have people come up to me and

let me know that what I am doing is changing people's lives."

Jones encourages people to dance with him or talk to him.

He does not take any dancing lessons- he taught himself.

"I create my own moves and I sometimes watch YouTube tutorials," he said. "My dancing is just all of those put into action."

Jones dances to electronic music- mostly Skrillex, Excision and a couple others. He got into electronic music when he was about 13 and his older sisters introduced him to it.

It was that type of music that inspired him to become a DJ. You can listen to his work on his Facebook page, DJ D15ORDER.

However, Jones does have a couple critics.

"People will tell me that I did better last week, or the other way around," he said.

"Everyone has a critic. You could be the best at something, and there will always be one person against you. No matter what you do. You just have to ignore that person and be yourself. If you like what you're doing, no one else's opinion matters."



Robert Jones, the dancing DJ.

Photo by Lauren Bulow

Police blotter

Arrest at Centennial

Xzavier Wihem Fontaine, Joliet, was arrested on March 9 in the Centennial Commons on an active FTA (Failure to Appear) warrant, according to JJC Police.

He contacted JJCPD for assistance after being locked out of his apartment in the commons, when dispatch discovered the active warrant. He was unable to post the \$575 bond and \$75 FTA fee and was

transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility.

Arrest at City Center

Israel Norberto Mendoza, Joliet, was arrested on March 8 at the JJC City Center Campus on an active FTA (Failure to Appear) warrant through Will County, according to JJC Police.

According police, the warrant was discovered after Mendoza admitted to his professor that he consumed a homemade cannabis-

laced brownie. He was issued a JJC student code, \$50 regulation ticket and issued a notice of trespass from all JJC property.

He was later transported to JJCPD where he was processed on the FTA and searched. Following this, he was transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility where he was processed for the FTA warrant.

Forum from page 1

unique experiences with them to Springfield.

Connor, a former Will County prosecutor, decided to enter the political arena after growing weary of his duties with the county.

He was involved in the infamous Drew Peterson case which began in 2007. But it was his work with gang violence that drove him to politics.

"In prosecuting gang murders, I came to the conclusion that I was picking up the pieces," said Connor. "I'm eliminating one person because they're going to prison for the rest of their life, and the victim is already gone. We're not making any progress."

After a particularly upsetting drive-by shooting, Connor accepted an appointment into the Illinois House of Representatives.

"When the opportunity came up, instead of just complaining about it I thought, 'well I can't really complain if I have an opportunity to try to make a difference I choose not to,'" he said.

Manley and Bertino-Tarrant each also had different perspectives, as they have been in Springfield since 2013.

Welter arrived in July of 2016, and Connor in June 2017.

The two more tenured members compared the climate in

Springfield from before and after the fracture of the political parties that has deepened in recent years.

"The Republicans have always been in the minority since I've been there," said Manley. "In 2013-14 they got a lot of their legislation passed because we worked together. That's not happening anymore."

"That's when it comes down to compromising," added Welter. "How much are you willing to compromise?"

Ideally, compromising between parties would lead to a smoother-functioning government, but compromising is also more difficult with the new, more hostile political climate.

"We talk about the word 'bipartisan' and people think it would be good to compromise," said Bertino-Tarrant. "But what it really comes down to is, voters are going to get mad if we compromise."

When asked to explain the environment in Springfield, the group exchanged looks, eye rolls and a few exasperated sighs.

"Happiness," said Manley, drawing chuckles from her colleagues.

But they all remained hopeful that the climate can become more civil again.

The group also discussed important issues such as gun



Student Trustee Sante Deserio (right) moderates the forum with, from left, Natalie Manley, Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, John Connor and David Welter. Photo by Adam Tumino

control, criminal justice reform and school funding. The fate of DACA recipients was also discussed.

All four agreed that it is extremely difficult to do anything to address DACA at a state level until the federal government makes a move. The uncertainty at the top is disrupting everything below.

A question was asked that addressed the importance of

junior and community colleges. Manley and Welter both attended JJC, and mentioned that taking general education courses at junior college is just as valuable as attending a university.

JJC Student Trustee Sante Deserio moderated the forum, and organized it along with Director of Student Activities Pam Dilday and Executive Director of Communications and Marketing Kelly Rohder.

"We had some good questions asked, we heard good responses from each of the legislators," said Deserio. "As with any event, I think we could've had more students out here. But overall I think it was a great day."

This forum was another attempt by the JJC community to increase civic awareness on campus. It came just three weeks after Joliet Mayor Bob O'Dekirk delivered an address in U-Building.

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

Fen from page 1

south of the campus which would extend Olympic Boulevard to the west.

These decisions are not final, however.

"This could change as IDOT evaluates these two routes, so not final as of yet," said Mitchell in the email. "However, for the time being, it appears that the roadways that could impact the fen are no longer under consideration."

According to the email, President Mitchell and Vice President Rob Galick have been attending meetings to provide input on and stay involved with the development of the road.

She expressed intention to continue keeping the campus updated as more information comes.

"We have been appreciative of the free flow of information as the project has evolved," said Mitchell. "At this point, we look forward to continued

communications from those involved with the development and the opportunity to be engaged in conversation as the project progresses."

Biology professor Andrew Neill, one of the most outspoken defenders of the fen and opposers to the proposed road, said he is "cautiously happy" about the removal of the fen-endangering road as a possibility.

"Anything's possible," said Neill. "But the state has indicated it's not going to consider those alternative routes through the fen, through the natural areas."

He does not believe the fight to protect the fen is over.

"Until the fen has got permanent, long-term protection, it's never over."

Neill said that he has always sought acquiring long-term protection of the natural areas and will continue to do so.

The community advisory

group for this road development project will be holding a public meeting on Wednesday, April 11 between 4 and 7 p.m. inside the U-Building auditorium at Joliet

Junior College.

Anyone interested in learning more about the project and its impacts on the area is strongly recommended to attend.

Information regarding the project and the study overview can be found at www.i55atil59accessproject.org.



A sign standing at the entrance to the nature trail of the fen.

Photo by Adam Tumino

Phi Theta Kappa Inductees Spring 2018

Amanda Acup
Stephanie Aker
Jonathan Almarwi
Melanie Anderson
Jorge Angel
Maria Arrieta
Joseph Badalamenti
Lakeisha Banks
Cadarius Banks
Anthony Bernhard
Gianna Bilotto
Riley Brandt
Azia Brathwaite
Jonathan Brauer
Clay Briscoe
Jazmin Buenrostro
Malina Bun
Giselle Camacho
Diana Cardenas
Andria Cerdan
Marcela Chouteau
Conner Christian
Scott Cleland
Brandon Cocanig
Collette Conner
Lizbeth Cortes
Jerilyn Damiani
Syuzanna Darbinyan
Mia Deguido
Rocco Del Real
Alejandro Diaz
Thomas Digrizia
Arianna Dipersia
Carla Dreher
Kyla Egizio
Theresa Ellison

Liam Fahey
Nicolas Fernandez
Margaret Fischer
Andrew Fowler
Rachael Fox
Krzysztof Fudala
Gabriella Gallegos
Beatriz Garcia
Kira Gleason
Ericka Gonzalez
Guzman
Brianna Gray
Danielle
Grimmenga
Joshua Henderson
Kelly Hennessy
Hayley Hetzer
Rebecca Higgins
Alexandria Hiller
Kaela Holubek
Jessica Janetzke
John Jensen
Taylor Jordan
Brandon Juarez
Kylie Jump
Lauren Katich
Ali Kazmi
Renee Konrath
Alexa Kopecky
Julie Larkner
James Laurenti
Pamela Lawler
Brandon Leal
Luis Leal Ortiz
Michael Lopez
Ana Lopez

Louis Lotesto
Joseph Lyle
Nicole Lynch
Jessica Mack
Derek Malone
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Danielle McGrath
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Jocelyn Mercado
Gabriana Moreno
MacKenzie Morrow
John Murphy
Madison Murphy
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Juan Ortega
Freddy Ortiz
Anageli Oseguero
Jacquelyn Otero
Sydnee Palade
Kristen Pena
Brooke Petko
Luciano Petrongelli Jr.
Lindsay Pina
Nicole Quinines
Steven Rainford
Benjamin Redlich
Alexis Renkor
Estefania Rodriguez
Selene Rodriguez
Nathan Rogness
Stephanie Roney
Elizabeth
Rosenbaum
Gavin Rupeika

George Schaffer
Cheryl Schmidt
Meghan Sellers
Rebecca Silic
Daniel Simmons
Kellie Smith
Owen Sowatzke
Kelley Staniszewski
Kelly Stewart
Marissa Stirm
Jude Raphael Suriaga
Natalie Swanson
Annalyse Taccola
Li Ang Tang
Lareisha Thompson
Bethany Timm
Ny Tran
Jamie Vaccaro
Diana Ventura
Alexander Verklan
Danielle Voltolina
Jenna Wallace
Christopher Welsh
Brennan Werner
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Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

'Pacific Rim' wastes viewers' time, money

BY BECCA DVORAK

Copy Editor

Let's just start out honest here. *Pacific Rim: Uprising* is terrible and not even worth \$1 for admission.

In fact, it wasn't worth the whatever billion they spent creating it.

The film consists of nothing more than overpriced action scenes, terrible CGI effects

and a plot that just constantly downfalls throughout the whole film.

Honestly it seems as if someone drank a Redbull at 3 a.m. and just wrote down the first thing that came to mind.

Let's focus on the plot for a second, though. It's a mix of adolescent play and leftovers. It's as if a 10-year-old wanted a remake of *Transformers* without it actually being a *Transformers* movie.

Michael Bay would definitely

be proud of this film, and if that doesn't tell you what type of movie it is then you need to get out more often.

As for the leftovers, it seems as though when they weren't using their very original "bits" of crime fighting robots, they were reusing scenes from the first installment.

And, for pointers, the first film wasn't good either so don't waste your time trying to catch up. It won't matter in the end.

The casting wasn't any better,

if not worse, than the first installment as well.

John Boyega plays one of the leading roles, Jake Pentecost who is the son of Idris Elba's character from the first movie.

But it's probably safe to say this movie did nothing to promote his acting skills. In fact, the only thing keeping his career afloat seems to be his role in the *Star Wars* films.

As for Charlie Day, his career ended the second *Always Sunny in Philadelphia* did.

He returns here as Dr. Newton Geiszler.

Day an Boyega have been much better, and probably will be better again.

All in all, this movie is an awful choice for a night out. Watching grass grow has more of an interesting story than this film.

Follow this advice and you will not only save money, but a trip to the ER due to a massive migraine.

'She Kills Monsters' sure to be another hit

BY BECCA DVORAK

Copy Editor

The JJC theatre department is yet again offering another fantastically well-rehearsed play coming up this month.

The department is bringing the play "*She Kills Monsters*," by Qui Nguyen, to life. And from just previewing the practice, you can tell that this may be one of the best performances JJC has offered in a while.

So that you are informed of the plot of the play, "*She Kills Monsters*" tells the story of Agnes Evans leaving her home in Ohio after the death of her teen sister, Tilly.

Agnes ends up coming across Tilly's *Dungeons and Dragons* notebook and is sucked into a world full of discovery, adventure and imagination that was originally Tilly's refuge.

If the plot did not catch your attention, for some awkward reason that involves you being boring, then maybe knowing how much time, practice and

care the actors and actress put forth to preform will.

The cast rehearsed Monday through Friday for weeks on end. This consisted of learning the script, physical warm ups and even combat and battle scene practices.

But the long night practices and rehearsals are not the only thing the cast committed to.

Part of performing in a play is not just about catching the audience's attention and "wow" them with bravado, but also having great chemistry with the other cast members.

From watching on the sidelines, it was easy to put together that everyone on set was comfortable around each other and no evidence of the assumptive "drama" behind set was present whatsoever.

Director Nicki Blowers agreed that there was no allowance of the hazardous emotion on or off the set.

"You have to wipe your feet at the door," Blowers said.

While sitting in on the preview of the play, Blowers showcased

authority on the set without taking away from the chill atmosphere.

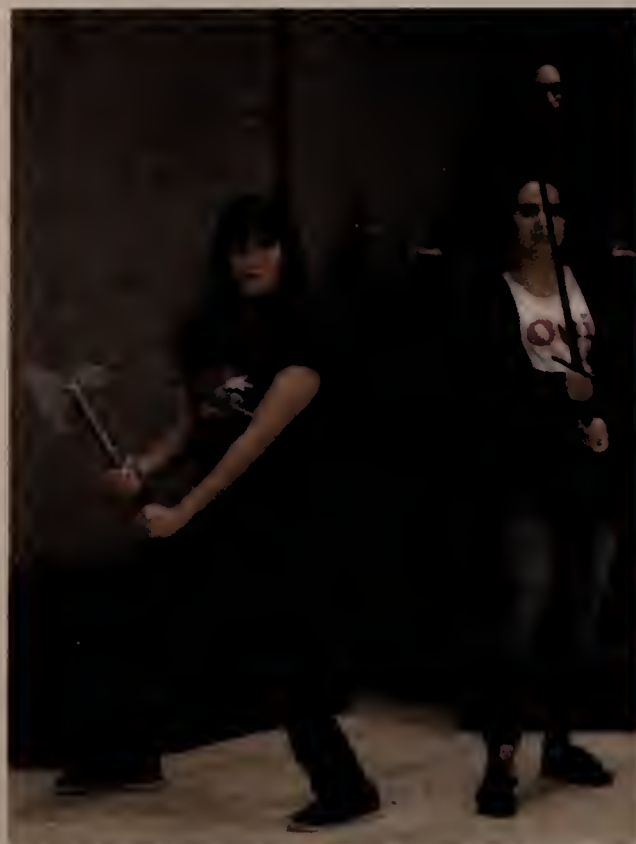
Blowers has been a member of the JJC family for 30 years and stated that she absolutely loves working with the theatre department and students.

Blowers also kindly mentioned that the play itself "tugs at the heart" and represents people and relationships.

After viewing the practice and watching how well they perform with each other on and off set, it's safe to say that this play will be performed extremely well and offer something for every audience member.

"*She Kills Monsters*" will debut April 12-15 and 19-22 with 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. showings in the Black Box Theatre located in K-Building. Tickets will be sold in the theater box office along with more details.

It is in everyone's best interest to see this play and experience a wonderful performance that will touch their heart.



Cast of "Monsters" rehearses.

Photo by Becca Dvorak

JJC to host music industry panel

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

Internationally renowned music business organization The Sessions will be bringing their act to JJC.

On Tuesday, April 10, they will be in the Fine Arts Theatre in K-Building from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Sessions put on 10 clinics each year across the country and have even gone to France, Italy, Great Britain and Germany.

The members of The Sessions come from every corner of the music industry.

There will be six of these distinguished panelists at JJC.

Dom Famularo, one of the most sought after drumming instructors in the world, will be present. He has played with some well-known acts, and studied under one of the greatest

drummers of the 20th Century, Joe Morello of the Dave Brubeck Quartet.

Tour manager Carlos Guzman will bring more of a "behind the scenes" perspective to the event. He has managed and worked on tours for some of music's most iconic figures, such as Barry Gibb, Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder.

Paul Quin, a music business consultant and attorney, will help attendees understand the legal aspects of the music industry. He often helps new artists plan their careers and make sure they protect their own interests in a cutthroat business.

Bringing the experiences of a long and successful singing career will be Christine Ohlman, a singer, songwriter and recording artist who has been the lead vocalist of the SNL band since 1991.

Carl Giammarese will bring over 50 years of music to the

stage. He is the guitarist and vocalist of Chicago-based band The Buckingham.

They had a number one hit in 1967 with "It's Kind of a Drag." JJC professors Charles Morgan and Rich Moore are also members of The Buckingham.

Morgan has been their trombone player for nearly 20 years, and Moore their saxophone player for 10.

Rounding out the panel is accomplished saxophonist Mindi Abair.

In addition to a hit-filled contemporary jazz career, Abair has toured with Aerosmith, been a featured musician on two seasons of American Idol and played with Paul Schaeffer and the CBS Orchestra on Late Night with David Letterman three times.

Morgan, who helped organize the event, thinks it is something that all attendees can enjoy.

"We are proud to be able to

offer this amazing event to our students and community," said Morgan.

Back in February, when the event was in the early stages of planning, Morgan told The Blazer about the possible impact the event can have on JJC's music department.

"It's going to be a recruitment tool for us," he said at the time. "We're bringing out high schools. Other colleges are going

to come in."

The Sessions will be free and open to the public, though registration is required through the organization's website.

The day will end with a jam session. Attendees are encouraged to bring their instruments and join in.

The Sessions is a can't miss event for music students and anyone else wanting to learn more about the music business.



Photo courtesy of thesessions.org

Mel Brooks's 'The Producers' turns 50

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

Sometimes comedy is regarded as "too soon," meaning that time must pass before people can make fun of something tragic.

In 1967, Mel Brooks decided that he had waited long enough.

March 18 marked the 50th anniversary of the wider release of Brooks' debut film "The Producers."

To this day, it remains one of the most outlandish comedies of all time, and one of the most inventive.

Of all of the things in the world to make fun of, some things are

always seemingly off limits. The Nazis and Hitler's atrocities are one of those topics.

Even now, 73 years after the end of World War II, many people are not comfortable with joking about it.

Brooks only waited 22 years before unleashing his comedic fury on the Nazis.

But it is how he got away with it that is remarkable. It was through characters.

He established the depravity of his main character, the down-on-his-luck former Broadway producer Max Bialystock (Zero Mostel), so effectively that the usage of Nazi symbolism in

comedic situations was not nearly as offensive.

We believe that Bialystock would do literally anything to make a buck, and exemplified by his bedding of rich old woman to fund his Broadway flops.

The other main character, accountant Leo Bloom (Gene Wilder), is such a pathetic, submissive and naïve man that we believe he would trust Bialystock.

For those unfamiliar with the film's plot, Bloom is preparing Bialystock's taxes when he notices that Bialystock accidentally raised more money than he spent on a production.

The play was a flop, and the

IRS didn't notice the missing two thousand dollars. Bloom makes a passing comment that a producer could hypothetically make more money on a flop than a hit.

Bialystock convinces Bloom to put his plan to action. If the play closes after one night, they won't need to pay back their backers, and they can retire to Rio.

The two set off to produce the worst show ever made, and find a script written by an insane former Nazi soldier, whose old war helmet is covered in the excrement of his carrier pigeons.

The play is so bad, however, that the audience mistakes it for

satire. It is a hit, and Bialystock and Bloom go to prison for fraud.

The screenplay won Brooks an Oscar, and set the groundwork for his classic comedies on the 1970s.

The Producers received mixed reviews upon release, given its sensitive nature and use of Nazism as a punch line.

But through the years it has gone down as a comedic masterpiece, proving that there is no such thing as too soon if you do it the right way.

And Brooks certainly did. His impact on the world of comedy is rivaled by few others.

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Adam's Hot Corner

The curious case of Michael Bennett



BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

An impending legal battle involving an NFL star is sure to be perplexing and controversial.

Former Seattle Seahawks player who was recently traded to the Philadelphia Eagles, Michael Bennett was indicted on felony charges in Houston stemming from an occurrence 14 months ago, during Super Bowl 51.

Bennett, there to watch his brother Martellus win his first championship ring, allegedly pushed passed stadium security to celebrate on the field.

No arrest was made at the time, and no video or photographic evidence of the incident exists, according to police.

But the whole situation just feels suspicious. Something's not

quite right.

Bennett has been one of the most vocal supporters of the recent NFL protests of police brutality and an imbalanced criminal justice system, and has been critical of the state of police work in America.

He also had a run-in with authorities in Las Vegas after the Mayweather-McGregor fight in August of 2017.

Following reports of a possible active shooter situation in the area, Bennett was detained as a possible suspect. He was held on the ground with a gun to his head, when an officer threatened to "blow [his] f*cking head off."

Bennett claimed that he was not given a reason for being detained, even after he was released at the scene.

He claimed he was racially profiled in the incident and treated unfairly and brutally.

Police insisted that race was not a factor.

In the Super Bowl incident, Bennett rushed onto the field to celebrate, and police claim he violently pushed through stadium security, including an elderly paraplegic woman.

She allegedly suffered back strain from the encounter.

The indictment was announced at a bizarre press conference where Bennett was called "morally bankrupt" by Houston police Chief Art Acevedo.

But an indictment coming after 14 months of inaction, with no physical evidence of any kind seems strange.

It seems even stranger, given the heightened security measures taken by hosts of large events like the Super Bowl.

Stadium security as a whole has greatly improved over the last decade, and special events draw even more security precautions.

And if the incident happened at the entrance to the field of play, that would seem like an ideal place for there to have been a security camera.

It seems extremely unlikely that a camera would not be placed at the field entrances, where a possible security threat would be the most likely to happen. This is just a possible oversight by the stadium security, however.

The only witnesses seem to be Bennett, the victim and one police officer.

But video evidence isn't the only thing missing.

There are also no medical records showing that the elderly woman received any treatment.

Bennett possibly acted irresponsibly in his excitement, and very well may have inadvertently made contact with security personnel.

But it is everything that has happened since the incident that is even more confusing.

The length of time between

the incident and the indictment is surely strange, especially given that the prosecution claims to have a strong case.

Also, it appears to be a troubling coincidence that the police began interviewing people involved in the incident just one month after Bennett's public criticism of the Vegas Police Department.

This entire case is also sketchy when viewing other noteworthy cases of NFL players and assault charges.

Most infamously was the Ray Rice incident in 2014, when after an alleged assault on his fiancée in an Atlantic City elevator, a surveillance video surfaced of Rice knocking her unconscious and dragging her body out of the elevator.

Rice was indicted on aggravated assault charges, but

avoided trial, opting to enter a pre-trial intervention program. After 12 months of staying out of trouble, the assault would be taken off his record.

The program was usually used for non-violent crimes with no clear victims, and was only applied to less than one percent of domestic violence cases in New Jersey from 2010-13, according to the ESPN's Outside the Lines.

The treatment of Bennett is concerning by comparison. He allegedly inadvertently injured a security guard with no evidence. Rice brutally assaulted his fiancée directly under a camera and basically escaped any legal repercussions.

Bennett will likely avoid jail time, even if convicted. But the story is strange and will definitely be intriguing to watch unfold.



Bennett with writer Dave Zirin.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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Baseball from page 1

solid numbers.

As a team, they are posting a slash line of .303/.400/.405, and offensively are near the top of the nation in several categories.

Their 162 runs are the 15th most in the nation. They also have the 12th most hits (214) and the 13th most extra-base hits

(56).

The Wolves' on base percentage is also the highest since 2015, when they finished as national runners up.

Leading the way for the offense is Marcus Stewart. The sophomore first baseman leads the team in batting average

(.456) and on base percentage (.537), and is second only to Jack Cavanaugh in slugging.

Stewart's batting average is good for 33rd best in the nation.

Cavanaugh is tied for the team lead in home runs with two, and is second in RBI behind Andrew Rodriguez. He has also walked 22 times, the 8th highest total in the nation.

Sophomore second baseman Anthony Agne is leading the Wolves with 30 hits in 20 games,

and 32nd most hits nationally.

Pitching has been less consistent for the Wolves, whose 6.12 ERA is not in the top 50 in the nation.

Sophomore Drew Clavenna leads the team with a 3.68 ERA among pitchers with at least 10 innings pitched.

Jake Carlsen is leading the team in strikeouts with 29, which are the 29th most in the nation.

He is also striking out batters

at a clip of 10.73 per game, good for 38th in the nation.

The rest of the staff has seen mixed results, but as the season continues and the weather warms up, perhaps the pitching will warm up too.

With 30 games remaining, 10 of which are in conference, the Wolves will try to earn a high seed in the postseason starting in May, and look to make a run for the national tournament.



Anthony Agne tracks down a pop fly. Photo by Adam Tumino



Jackson Stulas tags a South Suburban baserunner as Zach Pych (99) looks on. Photo by Adam Tumino



Jack Cavanaugh pitches against South Suburban College on March 28.

Photo by Adam Tumino

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SPORTS

Lady Wolves offense thriving

BY JOHN SAFFRAHN

Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College softball team went on an impressive run of winning 10 straight games before losing 2 games to Prairie State College on March 31.

Even though their win streak has come to an end, the Lady Wolves are sitting at a solid record of 16-8.

"It's so hard to choose because there has been so many," head coach Kerri O'Shea said about which players have impressed her so far this year.

The team started off its season playing their first 6 games inside of the Rosemont Sports Dome, where they went 4-2.

Next, they set their sights on Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The team went 4-4 on their southern trip, but walked away with valuable experience.

"The goal is really for the girls to come together and find out what type of team they are," O'Shea said.

Given the nature of two-year sports programs, it can be difficult to establish a team chemistry when so many players keep coming and going.

However, the lady wolves have started to bud into a dominant offensive force, posting a record of 8-2 since returning from Myrtle Beach.

As a team, they have scored 140 runs in 20 games including 9 home runs.

Sophomore outfielder Sarah Goff's bat has lead the way. She has hit five home runs while posting a slugging percentage of .725.

The team has eight players with an OBP greater than .400. Atop this list are freshmen Sarah Miller and Lexi Meurer who have OBPs of .474 and .492, respectively.

The Lady Wolves have definitely been able to pile on

runs, but they have won many games due to their defense being able to close out games.

"We are more of an offense based-program, but you can't turn your head when you're talking about defense," O'Shea said.

Outfielders Katie Price, Ashley Decraene and Izzy Ortiz have all been perfect in the field, still not having committed an error.

The infield has been solid as well, with Meg Anthony having a fielding percentage of .984, Meurer with .984 and Rachel Goff with .969.

While fielding the ball is important, perhaps the most important aspect of the defensive side of the game is pitching.

"Your pitchers have to make sure they are hitting their spots and pitching for outs," O'Shea said.

Freshman Laci Meurer has lead the teams pitching staff with 57 innings and a respectable ERA of 3.68.

Also making major contributions inside the circle is freshman Rachel Sangston. She has pitched 33.1 innings and posted an ERA of 3.99.

The lady wolves are 4-2 in conference play so far this and are looking down the line at Rock Valley and Madison to be formidable opponents.

"If you allow for your team to make mistakes, they'll capitalize on that," said O'Shea.

The Lady Wolves are not overlooking any team this year, but they are confident they can go out and succeed against any team they face.

The success this season is a big step for a program that just two seasons ago had 12 players on the roster.

O'Shea oversaw some early struggles during her JJC career so far, and the program now seems to be heading in the right direction as she coaches in her third season with the Lady Wolves.



Jasmin Torres pitches to Oakton on March 30, a 16-1 win for JJC.

Photo by Adam Tumino



Coach Kerri O'Shea watches her team from the dugout on March 30.

Photo by Adam Tumino

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Baseball Marcus Stewart



Marcus Stewart is leading the Wolves in several offensive categories so far this season. His batting average of .456 is the 33rd best in the nation. He also leads the team in on base percentage. The sophomore first baseman has helped the Wolves reach a 10-13 record and post team hitting numbers near the top of the nation.

Softball Lexi Meurer



Lexi Meurer, a sophomore, is playing a big role in the Lady Wolves best season in years. Her 27 hits are the 11th most in the nation, and her 11 doubles rank 3rd among all Division III hitters. With a slashline of .415/.465/.738, she is making the Lady Wolves lineup one of the most potent in the nation.

THE BLAZER

WEDNESDAY,

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2018

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Spotlight on former JJC club

BY JOSEPH CRUMP

Co-Editor

This issue, we're going to do something a little different, in that it's not really "new," but it will probably be news to most.

This month, we're going to highlight an old political club that used to exist here at JJC- the American Freedom Organization (AFO), later known as Action for Freedom (AFF).

"It was basically just a group of friends sitting around talking about different issues that should be more in the forefront," said Patrick Hannigan, the former chairman of the group.

But, something was stirred up within the group and they quickly became an active charitable and political force. Their mission statement was: "We are an organization whose purpose is to bring about political action and social responsibility."

This energy was poured into charity events and protests showing support for the disenfranchised.

"We wanted to help out the poor with Rock against Poverty and Rock against Hunger. We donated all those canned foods to different charity organizations that

See Club page 6

Student housing future uncertain

BY JOSEPH CRUMP

Co-Editor

Around 16 years ago, JJC attempted to do something no other community college in Illinois had tried- have student housing on campus.

The Centennial Commons was the result of this experiment. Because of an Illinois state law prohibiting community colleges from owning and operating student housing, a separate company, Housing Foundation LLC, owned and operated the complex.

However, this experiment has evidently failed.

As of May 31, the Foundation will no longer be involved with the Centennial Commons and while its future is uncertain, this does not mean the Commons

See Housing page 6



Photo by Adam Tumino

Centennial Commons, located on Centennial Drive across from the main campus.

Natural area clean-up, exciting developments

BY JOSEPH CRUMP

Co-Editor

On April 22, Earth Day, JJC's Natural Sciences Club, alongside the Forest Preserve District of Will County, hosted another natural area cleanup event, and with quite a large turnout.

111 students, locals and volunteers from all age groups came out to help clear invasive species, primarily buckthorn and honeysuckle, from JJC's treasured natural area.

"(Buckthorn and honeysuckle) take over and they don't let

See Natural page 5



Photo by Joseph Crump

Volunteers helping during the event on April 22.

Wolves look to ride hot streak into playoffs

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

The JJC baseball team is putting themselves in solid position for the upcoming postseason, where they will look to reach the national playoffs for the first time since 2015.

They currently sit at 24-18, with a conference record of 6-4.

The Wolves are putting up

their best offensive numbers since 2014, with a team slash line of .327/.419/.444.

Leading the way for the offense are sophomores Marcus Stewart, Anthony Agne and Jack Cavanaugh.

Stewart holds a team high batting average of .422 and on-base percentage of .508.

He also leads the team with

See Wolves page 11



Jackson Stulas prepares to hit.

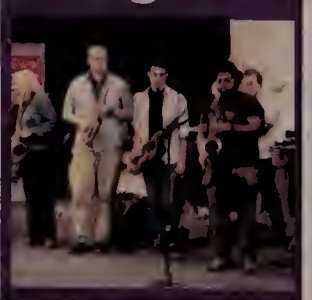
Photo by Adam Tumino

Check out
what is
inside
this
issue

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Page 6

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Page 9



End of the school year allows reflection

As the editorial staff of The Blazer is set to leave after this semester, we take a look back on the wide array of editorials we have published in the 2017-18 academic year.

There were race riots in Charlottesville, missiles fired over Japan, genocide in Myanmar, a mass shooting in Las Vegas, a devastating hurricane in Puerto Rico, a divisive State of the Union Address, another mass shooting in Parkland, Florida and the return of the war on drugs.

It's been quite the busy 12 months to say the least.

At The Blazer, we try to take so many worldwide events and find the local impact on the JJC community.

Some stories are hard to localize. Some are easier.

Regardless, JJC students

are always willing to lend their voices to our editorial pages, giving us thoughtful and insightful answers to often difficult questions.

A special thanks to them is in order, including the ones on this page.

Student input is the best way to localize stories and make them relevant to the JJC community.

Even with a new editorial staff slated to take over next semester, as long as the student body continues to chime in and participate, the importance of large-scale events will continue to be relevant to the campus.

News never stops. And in today's world, it seems to compile faster and is more and more difficult to keep track of.

We fall behind in just the madness of the day-to-

day news.

It is more important than ever to be aware of what is fact and what is not, as they often seem to have equal footing.

Having a student-run newspaper with student interaction is the best way to take an accurate pulse of JJC.

This is a campus full of people with unique stories and viewpoints.

Just in this past year, The Blazer has spoken with DACA recipients, researchers, scientists, athletes, politicians and community leaders- all connected to JJC.

We've covered protests, forums, mental health fundraisers, scholarship fundraisers, indigenous festivals, memorials, sporting events and concerts.

Looking ahead to next

semester, there will be more of the same.

The sports teams on campus will continue to play. The music department will have more concerts and recitals.

The theater department will produce more shows. Academic departments will introduce new classes and fields of study.

Only the people will change.

Being a community college, JJC has a lot of student turnover from year to year and semester to semester, each time bringing new voices to campus.

As long as all of the voices on campus continue to be heard, both JJC and The Blazer will be better for it.

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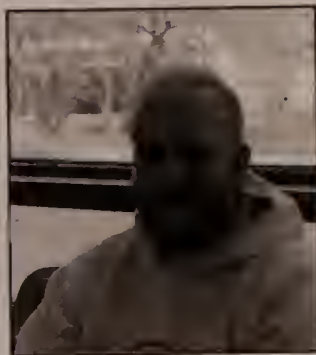
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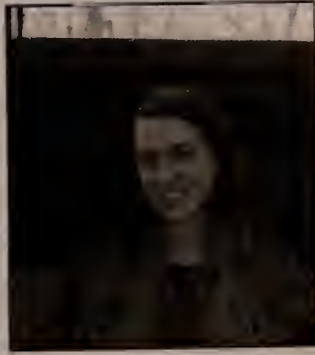
Question of the Issue:

**In this past academic year,
what has been your favorite
thing about JJC?**



Jonathan Johnson

"My favorite thing so far have probably been the classes themselves. Most of the professors I've had were great. Also the other students. It's a great environment to come and learn."



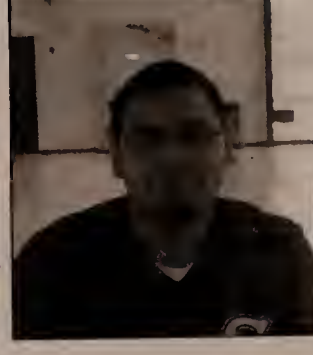
Madi Klein

"I've met a lot of people in different areas that I never would've met before. I feel like it's also given me an introduction of what I want to do. At first when I came here I wasn't too sure, but I took one biology class and it kind of clicked."



Chelsea Julca

"I think it's the people here. I've met different types of people pursuing different careers. It's really interesting to learn about that and study with them."



Emanuel Cruz

"My favorite thing is just how accessible everything is. The library is open at manageable hours so it's flexible with work schedules. It's really convenient for people who don't have time to be here 24/7."

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

Contact information:

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Phone number:
815-280-2313

What is even happening anymore?



BY JOSEPH CRUMP
Co-Editor

When I saw the news that our idiot-in-chief decided to bomb Syria following the alleged chemical strike on its own citizens, I was honestly scared.

"I'll see you all in basic training," a statement made on a friend's social media story, depicted my exact fear following the news.

Most of that initial fear was because of the tensions with Russia (who backs the Syrian government) and the underlying uncertainty of if anyone is actually crazy enough to start another large-scale war. I honestly still don't know, but I'm pretty sure that's not going to happen, because we all know the inevitable end if one starts.

No, the fear has subsided. It's

more or less been replaced with a head-scratching confusion about the entire situation. Seriously, why did Trump scream his intentions to the entire world, risking the success of the attack? He himself criticized that sort of behavior of previous presidents, or at least of Obama.

Also, what in the hell is our administration's foreign policy? Seriously, this keeps flip-flopping every other day, it feels. One day, Trump expresses a vested interest in pulling our ground troops out, and now he's throwing Tomahawk missiles at the country.

After all that has been done, I struggle to find a particular stance on the strike and our country's involvement in Syria. The behavior of Bashir al-Assad is unacceptable: poisoning his own citizens and maintaining an oppressive, despicable dictatorship. What dictatorships aren't total crap-fests, to put it lightly?

The retaliatory strike has been approved of by various other countries, which also believe Assad's regime to be cruel. It's been called a just response to the chemical strikes, and the European Union summit found it to be "understandable."

Some offered neutral opinions and stated that a political solution should be used, calling for communication between Russia and the United States to resolve

the situation.

Even further, some all-out condemned the attack, calling it illegal, or a violation of Syria's sovereignty. Some mentioned how this attack, and the possibility of others like it, could make the current battle against terrorists in the area much more difficult.

I personally agree with the sentiments calling it understandable, but I also agree with the idea that a non-violent solution should be the focus. The situation will only continue to escalate if there is not dialogue between our nation and Russia.

Furthermore, I also don't quite know how to feel about our

country continuing to involve itself in another's civil war. We all know how that went with the, ah, deposition of Saddam in Iraq.

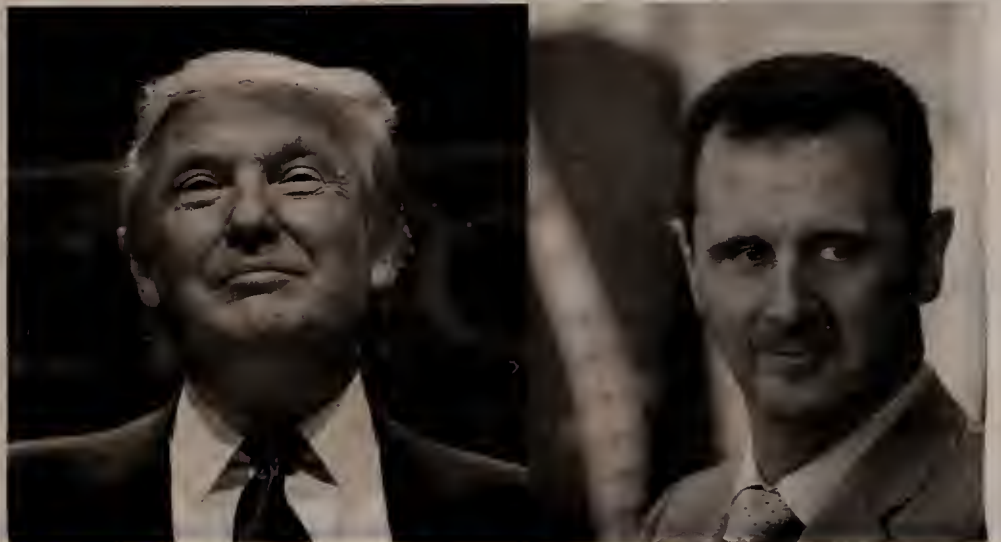
I believe the Assad regime is horrible, but I cannot propose any solutions to the situation. I don't know nearly enough about the internal structure of Syria or what sort of power struggle the removal of the dictator would create.

Let me circle back to our President- what the hell is going on? What's next? Are we going to open dialogue with Russia? Are we going to push ourselves deeper into this conflict? What's going to happen next? I'm both eager and frightened to find out.

Predictions about where the current situation will lead us and the rest of the world could be made, but certainly not by myself. I have an average understanding of the situation at hand.

I can, however, compare this to what happened with Saddam Hussein in Iraq, if our government were to take that approach. Spoiler: it didn't go well and that entire power vacuum is what led to a lot of the problems with terrorists we have now.

So, while I don't know what's going to happen, all I can say is that we really, really shouldn't try to depose of another violent dictator.



Photos courtesy of Gage Skidmore and Fabio Rodrigues Pozzebom/ABr

President Donald Trump and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad

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Glam Prom 2018

Event welcomes students to be themselves

BY ADRIEN DAVID

Staff Writer

For those that don't know what GLAM is, it is a club at JJC that stands for Gay, Lesbian, and More. It is a club where everyone is welcome, where students can feel accepted whether they are a member of the LGBTQ

community or not.

The club meets every Wednesday at 2 p.m. where members discuss a topic of their choosing, they begin by stating their names and preferred pronouns.

Every year they host a prom, this year with the Gamer's Club, where students can attend a dance in a safe environment.

The biggest part is that this prom extends to anyone who wants to go, especially high school students who may not be able to attend their own prom with their date of choice.

The prom didn't have the biggest turn out but, hopefully that changes in future years. The prom had dancing, video games, food, a photographer and guests

were able to request their own music.

Autumn Hensle, a member of GLAM, created the balloon decorations and centerpieces for the prom, the message of which was: "Dare to be yourself, do your own thing, and don't care about what anybody else has to say."

The club's vice president,

George Pitsoulakis, says that he has been a member since 2015 and that this is his last year. He said that GLAM means a lot to him and that his job is to help coordinate meetings and events.

"Be yourself and show your true colors, because that's what's important," Pitsoulakis said.

FEATURE PHOTO

JJC Professors and poets Kristin LaTour and Bill Yarrow held a poetry reading at JJC's Romeoville Campus on April 26th.

Photo courtesy of Carl Gilmore



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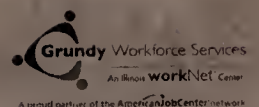
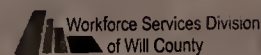
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Natural from page 1

anything grow underneath them,” said Bill Willis, a Will County Forest Preserve volunteer.

These cleanup days started roughly 15 years ago, according to Richard Walkenheim, the Will County Forest Preserve volunteer administrative assistant in charge of the event.

“We started because they had a prescribed fire burning class here and they tried to burn the oak savannah up by that building (Events Center/ F&G) and they

suggested we start having a work day,” said Walkenheim.

Ava Murdoch, the faculty member in charge of the event and the Natural Sciences Club Advisor, confirmed the cleanup has happened for 15 years, with her at the helm for nine of them.

According to her, a lot of progress has been made in the natural areas.

“You can see, it’s from very wooded and full of invasive species to seeing through the

trees, through the forest,” she said.

The cleanup day was not always only in the natural area, however. The campus used to have far more invasive species coverage.

“We actually started at the very beginning of the campus, which is that road by the industrial buildings,” said Murdoch. “We’ve been going down this side (the south side of the trail) for the past eight years, seven years.”

According to her, some segments have had to be redone because the invasive species grew back so quickly.

“I’ve noticed that these areas that are more of the woods it’s not re-sprouting so much. But where it’s open like the dam is, that just came back up like in a couple of years almost to the same point before we even touched it,” she said.

The persistent growth of the invasive species is testament to

the importance of these cleanup days. As Willis said, the invasive species get in and choke out all the native flora, which are important for local wildlife.

Native flora are important to the college for more than just environmental reasons, however.

According to Murdoch and Professor Andy Neill, the college is trying to get certified with Tree Campus USA.

“We’re going through a certification process to be Tree Campus USA because it’s a cool thing to have. It means that we have so many variety of species,” said Murdoch.

But it’s not just a neat thing to have. The species count of JJC’s natural areas can be used for other interesting bragging rights, such as classifying the entire campus as an arboretum.

“So, we’re going to go through applying through the Morton Arboretum in Lisle and they’re going to evaluate our application

and hopefully give us that title to become a certified arboretum at a particular level,” said Murdoch.

There are four different levels of arboretum classification, one through four, attainable by cataloging however many different plant species necessary for each level.

Somewhere around 500 different species are required to be certified as a level three arboretum.

“Maybe we can do the level three arboretum certification. If we’re level three, we’ll be probably the only school in Illinois for sure that’s that. If not, the only level 3 arboretum on the southern part through most of Illinois besides the Morton Arboretum and Chicago Botanical Gardens,” said Murdoch.

According to Murdoch and Neill, the Natural Sciences Department has cataloged around 350 different species of plants on campus so far.



Paul Schroeder and another volunteer aiding the cleanup effort.

Photo by Joseph Crump



Two volunteers carrying cleanup debris to the brush piles.

Photo by Joseph Crump

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Lindsay Mohrmann
Sean O'Dell
Delaney Peebles
Michael Sterchel
Amanda Vollmer
Marissa Walles
Alexa Ziegler

CONGRATULATIONS!

Housing from page 1

will close.

"Centennial Commons is not closing. It's being foreclosed on, it's in a legal process of being foreclosed on," said Kristen Mulvey, the Executive Director of the Foundation.

Mulvey said that as of May 31, Housing Foundation LLC will be out of Centennial Commons.

"As of June 1, we have no idea what's going to happen," said Mulvey.

The reason behind the foreclosure is a large amount of debt the Foundation cannot afford to repay. According to Mulvey, it owes its bond-holders \$14.4 million.

This has been a long time coming, as the baseline of financing the ownership of the Commons has not been met.

"The property needs to be 75% occupied to make a profit and it hasn't been in a long time," said Mulvey.

A judge has given ownership of the housing development to a receiver.

Though the Foundation has lost ownership of the development, it

does not mean students currently residing there will be kicked out.

Mulvey said that students currently holding leases will be able to continue living at the Commons, but the foundation has no idea what will happen with its management after its ownership is officially removed.

Due to the uncertainty of future business, future possible occupants of the Commons are unknown. Whether it will be opened to people other than students is unknown.



Entrance to Centennial Commons.

Photo by Adam Tumino

"It's open ended," said Mulvey.

This development is not necessarily surprising, considering the amount of complaints from students.

Centennial Commons™ has had a 1.7 star review on Google for just about as long as The Blazer can remember. Numerous complaints about inefficient, rude management have continuously arisen over the past few years.

Now that the ownership will change, only time will tell what the future of the Commons is.

Police blotter

In-State Warrant, Public Indecency Failure to Comply

According to JJC Police, Nathan K. Johnson of Plainfield was arrested on April 10 on an in-state warrant through Will County for failure to appear in a retail theft case. He was originally questioned for littering at JJC City Center campus for spitting sunflower seeds inside the building.

Johnson was processed, but unable to come up with 10% of a \$15,000 deposit bond. He was then transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility.

An Orland Park man has been arrested and charged with public indecency, according to JJC Police.

Bradley J. Lenocho, Orland Park, was charged with public indecency after a female JJC student observed him exposing his genitals while walking through JJC's Main Campus on April 3, according to the police.

Lenoch's court date is scheduled for May 9.

Spring Fling brings fun before finals

BY LAUREN BULOW

Staff Writer

Every year, JJC hosts a three-day festival called Spring Fling. The festival celebrates the end of the spring semester and the beginning of summer break. Pam Dilday, the director of Student Activities described the event as a celebration.

"You've almost made it through the semester, let's have some fun," said Dilday.

Spring Fling took place on April 24, 25 and 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the bridge. During these days there was a wide variety of entertainment for the students and staff of JJC, which included free food, karaoke, JJC Idol and even the mentalist Chris Carter.

On the first day, JJC hosted the musician John Rush who put on an acoustic karaoke set.

Volunteers had the opportunity to pick a song from Rush's extensive set list and Rush would play chords and provide background vocals for the

student. One student in particular, Austin Morgan stood in front of his peers and sang "Cheerleader" by Omi and sang wonderfully.

Listeners enjoyed live music and were able to make their own license plates and even get free candy.

The next day, a mentalist named Chris Carter put on a show for those gathered on the bridge.

During the show, Carter read minds and even hypnotized a student and made them fall asleep. Carter is no Jedi master playing mind tricks, but a mentalist. Mentalists are basically magicians that perform feats that demonstrate extraordinary mental powers. And it was truly extraordinary.

On the final day, JJC put on a singing competition called JJC Idol. During the competition, 16 people individually sang with the Live Band Karaoke from Chicago in front of a panel of judges composed of JJC staff.

From "Pour Some Sugar on Me" to "I Will Always Love You," contestants sang a wide variety of pieces that all sounded

great. The judges had to make some tough decisions.

In third-place, singing Elle King's "Ex's and Oh's" was Jewel Andy, winning \$75. In second-place, singing Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" was Patrice Grant, winning \$150.

In first-place, winning \$150 was Sharon Marbath, who sang an amazing cover of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You."

JJC's Student Activities team puts together a great deal of events for students and will still

continue to do so through finals and the summer.

In fact, during finals week, Student Activities are having dogs visit JJC to help calm students before their exams. Be sure to keep an eye out for their future activities.



Spring Fling festivities on the bridge on April 26.

Photo by Lauren Bulow

Club from page 1

distributed food to the poor. We just had a lot of different ideas," said Hannigan.

Additionally, the group put out its own newsletter, "The Spark," in which the members discussed hot-button political issues and gave opinions on topics such as racism,

xenophobia, poverty, etc.

In line with their stance in support of the impoverished and disenfranchised, the group held protests in front of department stores which were known to use sweatshop labor for their merchandise.

Their largest protest was held on Dec. 1, 2002 in

front of an Old Navy in Orland Park.

In an effort to combat prejudice and hatred, the group organized anti-racism events.

"Rock against Racism, that was our biggest, most successful one," said Hannigan.

Rock against Racism was held in what is now

known as the J-building cafeteria. It was expected to have between 200 and 300 attendees, with a three-dollar entry fee. All the proceeds went to national equal rights organizations.

"The club, for all it was worth, I think we tried to help as many people as we could, and it was a nice thing that we did," said Hannigan.

The club was all about love and peace, something the world needed in times like then. It's something the world needs now, too. "Instead of going on the internet so much, go to the library," said Hannigan, "Read a book. Something inspirational- help each other."

Important happenings at The Forge this summer

BY JOSEPH CRUMP

Co-Editor

This summer concert-goers are in for several treats from The Forge, Joliet's foremost concert venue- primarily an outdoor festival and a suicide prevention concert.

A suicide prevention/awareness show called "Live Forever," played by all local talent, will be held on July 29 at The Forge.

The headlining artist, going by the name Lucid, is one of the main thinkers of the event. According to his manager, JJC student Peter Waitkus, Lucid has struggled with depression which is what helped inspire the creation of this event.

Waitkus, Lucid and Jeremiah Butt, the booker The Forge, worked together to bring the show together.

"Lucid wanted a show, we wanted a show, so we all got together and came up with the idea," said Waitkus.

According to Waitkus, they will be having a special t-shirt made for the evening, and only that evening, and some proceeds from the t-shirt sales will be going towards suicide prevention organizations.

"That's just kind of what we're trying to do as a whole: trying to educate people through

something positive such as music and trying to show people that Joliet is a talented place," Waitkus said. "There's a lot of talent out here to be seen. It's just up to the people to come out and see local people perform."

"It's going to be super cool and we're trying to make a positive statement and make people realize that no matter how big somebody is or how small or whatever, it happens to everybody. Everywhere, depression is a problem and it's got to be recognized."

The other event is Rock the Block, which had been in planning for a while but has finally been unveiled. Rock the Block is part of the sixth Summerland Tour festival, being hosted by The Forge alongside Sirius XM.

The first Annual Rock the Block will take place June 15-17 at the corner of North Chicago and East Van Buren Street in downtown Joliet. All three days feature live music and food and drink vendors.

"This will be a fun one out on the streets of Downtown Joliet!" said Nicci Allen, the marketing director and booking assistant at The Forge.

Friday, the doors open at 4 p.m. and it runs until 11. Blackened, Kashmir and Rockstar Rodeo are



3 Days from Dying performing at The Forge. Photo by Joseph Crump

the three artists performing that day.

On Saturday, the event begins at 10 a.m. and runs until roughly 12:30 a.m. Admission is free until 4 p.m., when it will become \$15. Everclear, Marcy Playground, Local H and Boys of Summerland will be playing that day.

Sunday features artists Shindig, South City Revival, Pearl and Midnight and will run from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

More information on the event can be found on The Forge's website at www.theforgelive.com and on their Facebook page.

More information on summer events and shows can be found at both of those locations as well.

The Forge has an impressive history of successful, interesting and impressive shows.

Anyone and everyone is strongly encouraged to check out these events and support the local music scene.

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Average of 1 person every 11.7 minutes committed suicide

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One of the 11 projects on display.



Free popcorn given as students looked at pieces.



Art pieces from the show.

Junk to jewels, JJC hosts recycled art show

BY LAUREN BULOW

Staff Writer

Each year, in conjunction with Earth Day, JJC's student government hosts an art show. However, it is not your average run-of-the-mill display of various projects.

To celebrate Earth Day, contestants create an art piece that is composed of recycled objects. This year, 11 projects were displayed on the bridge.

Students and staff were encouraged to vote for their favorite pieces. Voters were given three bottle caps to place in a paper bag next to the project they were voting for.

At the art show, students and staff had the opportunity to win a bag of popcorn and a t-shirt that promotes going green by answering Earth Day trivia questions.

Earth Day was started in 1970.

It began after the publication of Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, which ultimately raised the public's concern for living

things and our planet.

JJC's recyclable art show was created to have a similar effect.

By making art out of garbage, artists prove that the trash we dispose could become beautiful works of art if we only reused it.

These creative examples of reusing recyclable objects definitely raised awareness. Over 500 votes were cast.

A piece called "Ugly Duckling" or, "Duckie" for short, won third place with 94 votes. "Duckie" was a three-dimensional swan composed of folded papers, created by Angelique Klimek.

Second place, with 100 votes, was taken by a pair of robots nicknamed Robot DeNiro and Rosie, created by Paula Swanstrom.

In first place, with 200 votes, created by Tia McCarthy, was a piece called, "Captivated"- with an emphasis on 'cap.'

This piece was formed to look like the upper body of a person with their hand above their head holding a pop tab. The entire sculpture was covered in bottle caps.

One of the artists helped facilitate the show. Thomas González, the creator of "Snowflake KG," a helicopter made of cardboard and a motor whose blades actually spun when a button was pressed, was walking around the tables encouraging everyone to vote with bottle caps.

González is a member of student government and studying to be an electrical engineer.

"About two months ago I heard this was coming up. I had some free time, so I just decided to do it. I'll probably do it again next year, it is really fun and you get a prize if you win. It's a win-win" he said.

The recycled art show truly is a win-win. Not only does the show give artists opportunities to display their talent and collect prizes, but passerby's can see some pretty inventive projects.

Most importantly, the show spreads a positive and eco-friendly reminder that the Earth is something we all have in common, and it is important to protect it.



All Photos by: Meghan Blenck

A group of students looking at the trash turned art pieces.

'She Kills Monsters' in the JJC Black Box Theatre

BY ADRIEN DAVID

Staff Writer

You may have seen the posters along JJC's halls that announced the theater department's latest production: *She Kills Monsters*.

This play by Qui Nguyen is definitely something out of the ordinary. Performed in JJC's Black Box Theater, the audience witnessed some interesting fight scenes as well as heartfelt moments.

She Kills Monsters was directed by Nicki Blowers, with the lead roles being Agnes (Grace Cooney) and her deceased sister, Tilly (Ashley Billings). This play follows Agnes whose family has recently passed away.

She knew her sister was a big fan of *Dungeons and Dragons* and decided she wants to play Tilly's game, with the help of the

local comic geek and Tilly's close friend, Chuck (Clint Cheshire).

The story transitions between the real world and the world of D&D, where anything can happen.

In the real world, Agnes has a boyfriend that she is moving in with named Miles (Cristian Moreno) and a job at the high school Tilly attended.

In the D&D world she learns things about Tilly that she didn't know when her sister was alive.

She Kills Monsters has fight scenes, comedy and also tackles some serious issues, such as how younger people that are a part of the LGBTQ community are treated.

At one point during the play Tilly kisses her D&D girlfriend Lilly (Sylmarie Soto) and half the audience audibly gasped.

It was a very interesting reaction, because there is killing, bullying, swearing and other

shocking events taking place during the play, however the lesbian aspect is what took the cake.

The performance was very well done and, though the fight scenes weren't the greatest, you have to give credit that they were in a small space and only so much could be done.

Ben Davis did an excellent job in his portrayal of Orcus, a powerful demon that would much rather watch television than go on adventures.

Billings, whose Tilly was perfect, also put on a wonderful show. All the actors did an amazing job and should be proud of their performance.

Anyone interested in the theatre department can go see a collection of one-act plays on May 27th and 28th in the Black Box Theatre.

More information is available online.



Cast members rehearsing for the show.

Photo by: Becca Dvorak

Music class is in Session

BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

The words "enrich, educate and empower" are present in the mission statement for The Sessions.

That mission brought them to JJC on April 10.

The Sessions is an interactive panel that features professionals from every corner of the music industry.

The event was held in the Fine Arts Theatre from 10 am until 2 pm and was free for the public.

The panel that came to JJC featured drumming ambassador Dom Famularo, entertainment attorney Paul Quin, Grammy-nominated saxophonist Mindi Abair, vocalist Christine Ohlman, guitarist Carl Giammarese and tour manager Carlos Guzman.

Each panelist spoke extensively about their perspective area of expertise.

Famularo moderated the panel, and spoke about the motivational aspects of a music career.

Quin dove into the legal world of music, explaining record contracts and legal agreements between band members.

Abair discussed stage presence and confidence while performing. She wrote a book called "How to Play Madison Square Garden," which discusses different ways to exude confidence on stage, ranging from picturing the audience in their underwear to simply "faking it."

Ohlman gave advice on how to find a unique sound. She called on her experience with the Saturday Night Live band, of which she has been a member since 1991.

Ohlman mentioned acts that were original and stood out at the time, and talked about seeing Nirvana perform on SNL early in their careers and how truly unique they were.

Giammarese brought the most



The panelists and attendees at The Sessions on April 10.

Photo by Adam Tumino

experience to the panel. He co-founded the Chicago-based band The Buckingham in 1966.

They had a number one hit in 1967 with "It's Kind of a Drag," and followed it up with several more top 10 hits.

Guzman gave a behind-the-scenes perspective to the event, using his experience as a drum tech for acts like Stevie Wonder and Diana Ross and his current job as tour member for the legendary Barry Gibb.

The Sessions also fielded questions from the music students and community members in the audience before concluding the event with a jam session.

Audience members performed a variety of songs from artists ranging from Stevie Wonder to Lynyrd Skynyrd.

At the end, all of the horn

players present got on stage to play Herbie Hancock's "Chameleon," with each player playing a solo.

One of those players was Ellis Wright on saxophone.

"I thought it was a cool event," said Wright. "It was a cool thing to have for the school, for Joliet and the surrounding area. There's nothing else like this."

Afterwards, Quin and Famularo spoke with The Blazer and provided their thoughts on the event.

"This venue was perfect for what we do. It was the perfect size, the acoustics were great," said Quin. "The musicianship was really high. This was a great positive experience for us."

"I thought it was fantastic," added Famularo, "and why I say it was fantastic has nothing to do

"This was a great positive experience for us"

-Paul Quin

with how the panel did. It was how the audience reacted. The students had great questions."

"When you finish it and see a big smile on their face, a thumbs up, that's when you know it worked really well."

Both Quin and Famularo expressed interest to return to JJC in a few years once a new crop of music students is on campus.



Christine Ohlman and Carl Giammarese. Photo by Adam Tumino

'Infinity War' is loaded entertainment

BY BECCA DVORAK

Copy Editor

Avengers Infinity War is..... a lot to process.

The movie itself is a disastrous masterpiece that projects laughter and tears from the opening scene all the way to the final end credits.

This is honestly the finale we were all dreading/waiting for.

Without giving spoilers, the movie consists of basically everyone (besides the X-men and Deadpool sadly) in the Marvel universe fighting the giant, buff Barney-looking Thanos.

Of course there are other objectives, such as saving the wizard's (Dr. Strange) necklace, restarting a star, fighting aliens- a typical weekend for the Avengers crew.

Of course, everyone is still in different legal positions since the accords situation in Civil War. Tony Stark, played by the veteran Robert Downey Jr., still stands for the accords, whereas Steve Rogers, portrayed by the handsomely gruff Chris Evans, still stands, well, in Wakanda.

However, with Thanos advancing to earth, they quickly realize they must put their opinions and differences aside or millions will suffer.

The main goal equals protecting the last Infinity stone on Earth, which just so happens to be powering the highly advanced Vision, portrayed by Paul Bettany.

Let's go back to the cast and characters though to point out just how much awesomeness this movie contains. Believe me when I say everyone is in this movie. From Chris Pratt as the infamous (still quite literally) Star-Lord, all the way to handsome and deadly Sebastian Stan as Bucky Barnes.

The characters all seem to have a rocky start in the beginning of their relationship when they band together. But with a bit of rough tension, awkward jokes and a giant purple psychopath trying to blow up everything with colorful stones, they make it work.

The visual effects, CGI, and action scenes are also worth praise in this film.

The animation and special effects team managed to perfectly

project lifelike giants from deep space along with planets beautifully. They are different than anything one would normally expect a planet to consist of.

Overall, Avengers: Infinity

War is probably one of the most important movies anyone should see this year. Everything about this film consists of excellency, superiority, endearment and attractive people in tight pants

fighting.

Literally anything and everything one could ask for is present in this film so don't be a loser, drop the comic and just go see the movie.



Benedict Cumberbatch, Robert Downey Jr., Benedict Wong, and Mark Ruffalo in Avengers Infinity War.

Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

I beg your pardon, Mr. President?



BY ADAM TUMINO

Co-Editor

A possible presidential pardon is in the news, and this time it won't be a disgraced former White House official or a racist octogenarian sheriff.

Jack Johnson, the former boxing champion, will receive the honor posthumously, having died at the age of 68 in 1946.

President Trump said he began considering a pardon after speaking with Sylvester Stallone.

Johnson was one of the great boxers of his, or any, era.

Born in 1878 in Texas, he rose to fame in the height of the Jim Crow era and became the first African-American heavyweight champion in 1908, and retained

the title until 1915.

In 1910, in what was dubbed "The Fight of the Century," Johnson defeated the previously undefeated James Jeffries, who was white.

Jeffries came out of retirement for the fight after being offered 120 thousand dollars for the fight- equivalent to 3.2 million dollars today.

Johnson won the bout.

Jeffries was gracious in defeat, but the same could not be said for many of his white fans.

Race riots began to take place throughout the country after the fight. Many people had hoped for a "white hope" to take out Johnson, and were humiliated by the result of the fight.

Over 20 people died during these riots.

Johnson was controversially charged and arrested in 1912 under the Mann Act, which forbids the interstate travel of "any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose."

He traveled across state lines with Lucille Cameron, his girlfriend who would soon become his second wife. The charges were believed to have a sinister racial motive, as Cameron was a white woman and Johnson was black.

Cameron did not cooperate with the case, and the charges were dropped.

However, Johnson was arrested less than a month later, once again under the Mann Act.

This time he was accused of taking a white prostitute across state lines in 1909 and 1910 during their relationship.

He was sentenced to a year in prison, even though the alleged crimes took place before the Mann Act was even passed.

But Johnson was not keen on the idea of prison, so he and Cameron fled the country.

For the next seven years, the couple lived in Canada, Europe, South America and Mexico before surrendering to the authorities in 1920 and serving 10 months of his prison term.

Johnson's place in history was cemented as a great boxer and an indelible figure in the battle for racial equality.

For the last decade, there have been attempts to grant a pardon for Johnson. Several of these attempts have gained steam, but were not granted by presidents George W. Bush or Barack Obama.

So why Trump?

Although Johnson is the ideal candidate to receive a pardon, I'm not sure Trump should be the one

to issue it.

It would feel hollow coming from a man who pardoned the despicable former Arizona sheriff, Joe Arpaio.

Arpaio oversaw rampant racial profiling in his district and had a jail called "Tent City," which he described as a concentration camp.

There is also evidence that his office failed to properly or fully investigate hundreds of sex crimes including some against children. Many of these cases even had suspects.

In 2016, Arpaio was found in

contempt of court after refusing a Justice Department request to stop his racial profiling practices before being pardoned only a year later.

Trump pardoning both Johnson and Arpaio would be a very ironic and ridiculous situation.

Johnson was a victim of racial profiling. Arpaio was a perpetrator of it.

A pardon for Johnson is appropriate and should be welcomed, but if Trump is the one to issue it, it would hold no moral value. This is a shame, because Johnson actually deserves one.



Jack Johnson

Photo courtesy of Wikimeidacommons

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Wolves from page 1



Jackson Stulas stands on second base. Photo by Adam Tumino

his seven stolen bases. Agne, the starting second baseman and leadoff hitter, is leading the Wolves with his 50 hits, which are also the 38th most in the nation. His three triples are the 23rd most nationally. Pitcher/outfielder Cavanaugh leads the team in slugging percentage (.615) and extra-base hits (15). The rest of the pitching staff is highlighted by Drew Clavenna and Jake Carlson, who are two of the busier pitchers in the nation. Clavenna is posting an ERA of 3.86 through a team-high 44.1 innings pitched, the 38th most in the nation. Carlson is not far behind, having tossed 43.2 innings so far. Strikeouts have been his specialty so far, leading the team

with 56 of them and averaging 11.54 per nine innings. He has the 17th most strikeouts in the nation. The Wolves are also fielding the ball at a higher rate than in the past, with their highest fielding percentage in at least the last five seasons. A milestone was also reached for head coach Wayne King recently, as he notched his 1,100 career win at JJC on April 27. King is in the midst of his 32nd season as head coach of the Wolves, with three national titles in that time (1994, 2008, and 2012). A roster of hot-hitting sophomores will look to add another championship to King's resume this summer.

Agne to transfer to D-I

BY JOHN SAFFRAHN
Sports Editor

Anthony Agne, a sophomore from Plainfield, IL and the second baseman for the Joliet Junior College Baseball team, will be moving on to a Division I program. Agne has had quite an impressive career with the Wolves, and players and coaches from all around are starting to notice. He just recently committed to continue his academic and athletic career at Purdue Northwest University. "It was exactly what I was looking for. A prestigious Purdue degree and an opportunity to play right away," Agne said. However, Agne's road to success has not been as easy as he makes it seem. He was first introduced to the game of baseball by his father when he was five years old and he continued to play all the way through high school with a continuously growing passion. Though he loved the game

and wanted to continue on to a collegiate baseball career, there are big competitive differences from high school to college ball. "Out of high school, I did not get a lot of interest from schools and I knew with some hard work I can further my career at a place that felt right," Agne said about choosing to play for JJC. Since joining the Wolves in the fall of 2016, he has made good on those words with a humble attitude, but he is never satisfied. Agne is having arguably his best season to date, and he accredits that to staying in the right mindset. "This year there can always be more to get done," said Agne. Agne has gotten plenty done so far this year from the leadoff spot with a batting average of .413 and 28 RBI over the course of 41 games. He has also been a solid part of the Wolves' defense with a fielding percentage of .984, and turning 14 double plays. "He is as consistent as they come," teammate Jack Cavanaugh said of Agne. While Agne has been key to a lot of the Wolves' success, he knows that he cannot win all on his own. "I want to credit my teammates for making this year a great experience and simply wanting to win. It will be great to finish strong for this team and coaching staff who put in hours and hours of work," Agne said. The team's strong and selfless atmosphere that has been created by this program led to not only Agne's success this year, but the entire teams. The usually dominating JJC baseball team played sub .500 ball through the first half of the regular season. However, the Wolves hit a turning point in April, winning 14 of their last 17 games. As April and the regular season draw to a close, the regional tournament approaches, and the JJC baseball team will be hosting the event. The winner of the regional will continue their quest for the national championship. In the words of Agne: "We have our eyes on one thing. It should be a fun one folks, let's go!"



Agne turns a double play against South Suburban College on March 28. Photo by Adam Tumino



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SPORTS

Lady Wolves gear up for playoffs

BY JOHN SAFFRAHN

Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College softball team, led by head coach Kerri O'Shea, is putting the finishing touches on their impressive regular season and getting ready to head into the postseason.

The regional tournament, which will be hosted by Rock Valley, kicks off on May 2, against an opponent who is yet

to be determined.

The Lady Wolves have amassed a solid record of 27-17 so far this season, with 5 games remaining.

At one point, the team was riding a 10-game win streak. While they continue to consistently win games, they have slowed down somewhat, splitting 2 of their last 4 conference matchups.

However, O'Shea is not too worried.

"If we drop the first game, we come back strong in the second game. If we take the first game,

we have to make sure that we don't get comfortable," she said..

Consistency will be crucial in order for the team to keep advancing into the playoffs, and the team definitely has the players to do just that.

The team as a whole has been an offensive juggernaut, with a team batting average of .350 and a team slugging percentage of .512.

This has resulted in a total of 435 team hits, 19 of which were home runs.

Sarah Goff has been responsible for a lot of the damage this year, leading the team in batting average, home runs, and RBIs with .422, 9, and 40, respectively.

The team has been able to combine their offensive dominance with stable pitching and defense to finish off many of their opponents this year.

The team has a respectable team ERA of 4.84, which is led by freshman Rachel Sangston with 3.63.

The team's fielding percentage has also been consistent at .939. Amidst that is freshman Meg Anthony, with a fielding percentage of .972 and 169 putouts.

The Lady Wolves have undoubtedly had a fantastic season so far, but with the coming arrival of the playoffs, the page is about to be turned.

"It's not how you start, it's how you finish," said O'Shea.

In order to finish strong in the upcoming playoffs, the Lady Wolves are going to need a full team effort combined with a clutch performances.

On April 24, the Joliet Junior College softball team squared off against Moraine Valley Community College.

The game was tied going into the 7th inning. That is when Jasmine Torres was brought in the pinch hit, where she roped a triple.

Mackenzie Melendez came up big behind her with an RBI single to break the tie. Rachel Sangston then entered to close out the game and secure the victory.

It is timely hitting and consistent pitching like this that the Lady Wolves will look to keep executing to beat tough opponents down the stretch.

As the winter weather is fleeting and the days start to heat up, the Lady Wolves will look to do the same starting in the regional tournament.



#4 Sarah Goff

Batting
Average
.424

Home Runs
9

RBI's
42

Runs
32

Stats as of April 30th



Lexi Meurer makes contact with the ball during a game on March 30th against Oakton.

Photo by Adam Tumino

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Baseball

Jack Cavanaugh

Jack Cavanaugh leads the Wolves with a .615 slugging percentage in this, his sophomore season. He has the fifth most at-bats on the team, while also pitching the sixth most innings.



Softball

Rachel Sangston

Freshman Rachel Sangston has been the leading pitcher for the Lady Wolves in 2018. Her 112 innings are the most on the team, as are her 13 wins. Sangston's ERA of 3.63 not only leads the team, but is also the 29th best in the nation.



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JJC Student Govt. sets to have success this semester

By Meghan Blenck

Assistant Production Manager

A government you can trust: that's what JJC's student government strives to be. The group has been planning, debating and looking out for the student body since the second week of school.

The group meets from 3-4 p.m. every Thursday in the A-1002, which is the room across from the main cafeteria. Although they only meet for an hour, the meetings cover everything from events to problems on all JJC campuses. The meetings are run by student leaders and adviser Pam Dilday, who runs the Office of Student Activities. Government members are able to vote for their own members for executive board positions.

This year's executive board is made up of Presidents Malcolm Frenzel and Rebecca Ashbacher, with Josh Hancock as Secretary, Tomas Gonzalez as Treasurer, Zach Schroeder as Public Relations Representative and Alonso Rodriguez as Student Trustee. Alongside them are Student Representatives Jayla Glass, Xavier Colon, and Farooq Syed.

Members this year are also in charge of keeping track of their own activities and they have the opportunity to be involved in raffles and other prizes. This new way of members taking points will help them be responsible for their own reliability.

Rodriguez holds a special position where he is a non voting member of the JJC Governing

See Success page 7

Cybergate: Students outraged



The new cybercafe located in T-1041 is under construction.

Photo by Jessica Mack

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

Students are speaking out to protest the loss of their beloved Cybercafe, which was closed with almost no warning on May 18, 2018.

The Cybercafe was an ideal hang-out spot for many students; not just the Gamers Club. Students would go to spend time with friends, play games, or do homework. Faculty and students alike only received notice a month before the close, resulting in a disconnect with administration.

It has been speculated by affected students that all of the lab's resources, excluding the computers, were sold on private auction, which makes it likely that the plans to close

See Students page 5

JJC staff member remembers 9/11

By Stephania Rodriguez

Staff Writer

"It was a day just like today. There was not a single cloud in the sky."

Herb Alexander got up to go to work on Sept. 11, 2001, a day that seemed like any other. He worked in the financial district

of Chicago in the Chicago Board Options Exchange building. He was a computer programmer at Goldman Sachs Investment Bank.

He recalls being in the break room when he watched the first report of the first attack on TV.

"We all thought it was just an explosion that may have

happened. Later they said it may have been a plane."

Shortly after 8 a.m., he watched the second plane hit the second tower.

"Everyone immediately knew this was no accident," Alexander said. He and his coworkers were all concerned about the financial district in New York, where they

had many counterparts.

"Of course we were concerned about them. We made phone calls to them, making sure they were not affected."

About five minutes later, they received a two-word email that read, "Go home."

See Remembers page 6

Lady Wolves volleyball streak hits 7

By John Saffrahn

Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College Women's volleyball team is halfway through its regular season with 18 matches played so far.

The Lady Wolves had a slow start to their season dropping some winnable games, but they have roared back winning their last seven games to improve to

a record of 11-8.

Most notably, they took down number four ranked Rock Valley on Sept. 11 by 3-2.

"I am very impressed with our group of young ladies and the level that they have played at," said head coach Dan Brown.

Brown is in his first season as the head coach for the women's volleyball team at Joliet Junior College, but he is far from inexperienced.

Before coming to Joliet, Brown coached at Western Illinois, the University of North Dakota, and the University of Minnesota.

The team has 18 matches left to play this season and a lot left to prove. "We have some very winnable games coming up," said Brown.

The Lady Wolves have improved to 3-3 in conference play since defeating Rock

Valley. They also have been tough to beat at home, with a record of 4-1.

The team has been extremely busy so far playing the most games of any team in the nation. They also rank first in the nation with 2,222 total attacks and second with 1,154 digs.

The Lady Wolves have a very young team this year with

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what is
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issue

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Page 8



Blazer fires up fresh start

The Blazer would like to welcome the reader to a new semester. If returning students notice some changes to the Blazer's approach this year, we hope they are all for the better. With a new semester comes a fresh start, for both this publication and its devoted readers, and hopefully, new readers.

With a brand new staff, the Blazer is taking aim to carry the torch from last semester: a tall order to fill.

The Blazer congratulates those who contributed thus far to the content within these pages. As a student-run paper, the Blazer encourages students passing by the newsroom in F-1009 to drop in and pitch any story ideas they may have.

The Blazer believes writing is not something students are innately good

or poor at. The skill of writing only truly develops when it is applied for a higher aim. The highest aim is to use writing as a way to express one's process of investigation into a matter which is undeniably interesting to them.

Whether or a not a student tries something new is often said to be closely related to their "comfot zone."

As any staff at the Blazer would concur, a failure to try new things is causally related to the feeling of inadequacy which comes with unexplored territory in the face of those who are already excelling in the craft.

For someone who is apprehesive about expanding their horizons, Mark Twain has great advice:

"The secret to getting ahead is getting started."

The Blazer leads by example, and has taken this quote to heart so far this year. In this issue alone, the Blazer has started taking notice of issues which directly affect the student reader.

In this issue, the Blazer takes the reader to the school's annual Sept. 11 ceremony, this year featuring a special interview.

Additionally, the struggle for student space was explored following the abrupt closure and relocation of the well-known Cybercafe.

A brief look into the future brought information critical for CIOS students: the introduction of new degrees for the 2019 catalog.

Readers may also find

a revived Blazer web presence. As student journalists, Blazer staff writers and its editorial team are actively engaged in the new world of technology-driven media.

The website is a great place to visit for weekly updates on events happening on campus. Alternate content, like the new Blazecast, is also online and will soon be available for download.

Up to the minute sports coverage, instagram links, and twitter updates are also accessible on the site.

For the traditional reader, the Blazer will still produce print volumes monthly, where special attention will be paid to in depth investigations and long form articles. Print, as our Question of the Issue explores, can be a preferred way to digest information.

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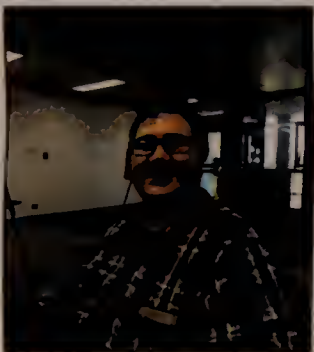
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The Blazer is a student-run publication. Opinions expressed in the Blazer do not necessarily reflect the views of the faculty or of the administration of Joliet Junior College.

Question of the Issue:

Do you prefer taking class notes on paper or electronically?



Kyle Killacky

"I like hard copy notes, writing everything down. It's because A: it's easily accessible and B: it's a hard copy and you can't lose it on the computer, which is a really big fare. I feel like I just learn better by actually writing it down rather than just typing it. I've tried both ways and I feel like writing it down is just a better way to learn--for me, anyways."



Fabion Mabry

"I'd have to say only paper notes because electronics can backfire, computers can crash and things like that. I've had a bad experience back in highschool where my entire computer had to get sent back to default and an entire half semester of notes were erased."



Nicollette Shelton

"I like typing my notes because it is quicker and I can actually get the notes done and I can write everything down before my professor changes the slide. I can't write as fast as I can type, plus my handwriting is crappy so there's that, too. If I'm off subject, like let's say I'm on Facebook or E-bay, I'm okay because I'm still listening to the lecture with my ears even though I'm not looking at my professor."



Anna Dimantulec

"Physical notes on paper. I pay more attention that way, I guess. I get kinda distracted on the computer. I don't look back at my notes that much, I just remember them because I wrote them down."

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

Contact information:

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Humans of JJC

By Dana Co

Zach Florek

Business Major

Based off of the popular Tumblr photoblog, Humans of New York, this is Humans of JJC: 15,000+ people, 15,000+ stories.

"The most influential person in my life thus far would have to be my mom. She has pretty much been one of the only people constantly in my life and she has taught me to be who I am today. Being a science teacher, she led me down a path of science as a kid and I have a great respect for the subject, even though I'm now going for business. That is probably where my deep love of weather comes from. On top of that, she was always on top of my studies and always knew that I could strive for better. So, when in my first semester at JJC my grades were not up to par, she got on me to try harder. It eventually paid off, as by the time I graduated my GPA was well above that first semester mark. On top of that, she cares deeply for me and really wants to see me become successful and I truly appreciate that."



Blazer introduces new podcast: 'Blazecast'

By Sean O'Dell

Co-Editor

The JJC Blazer has just added an audio-centric way to stay up to date with student news. Students who visit jjcblazer.com will now be met with an up-to-date web page, but also a student-run variety podcast called the "Blazecast."

This is a new medium being introduced to the weekly circuit of content the Blazer produces in an aim to serve students by providing them with a forum for discussion, entertainment, and a way to get a club message out to the public at large.

If a student is a leader or active member of a club at JJC, they are encouraged to email the office at blazermail@jjc.edu to discuss spreading word for an upcoming event or discussing an issue of interest.

The 'cast is one episode in and debuted on Sept. 9. This episode was hosted by Sean O'Dell, Co-Editor, and featured the new energetic members of the Blazer news team, who discussed a variety of important topics; from opinions concerning classic martial arts movies, to their professional attitudes within journalism.

The Blazer aims to provide

factual and up to date information, but simultaneously express student opinions with accuracy. The purpose of this podcast is to fulfill both of these needs with veracity.

Each episode can be found on the website once it is uploaded. Published episodes will go up every Friday, and episodes are recorded every Wednesday

afternoon, hosted by the Blazer's editorial staff.

As the semester progresses, the "Blazecast" will evolve. We encourage listeners to watch for improvements as time passes, with each episode presenting an engaged and authentic learning opportunity for both the hosts and the listeners.



Photo by Meghan Blenck

Check out more content
on our website
jjcblazer.com

Up to date news stories on and
around campus

Game time sports stories

Movies, television, and other
entertainment reviews

The new JJC podcast: 'Blazecast'

Staff editorials and opinions

and much more!

Help Others In Need

To help people affected by hurricane Florence, go to
The Red Cross website to donate.
www.redcross.org/Hurricane/Florence

Veteran's Lunch Bunch

Located in the Veterans Resource Center C-1039

Serving Our Vets

Veteran's Coordinator Cheryl Hlavac at Joliet Junior College Main Campus host on the last Thursday once a month a free lunch for military veterans and supporters. Pizza is served with drinks and snacks along with a quiet social environment to bond, watch television and play video games. Hlavac stated that this was their third year having this event and it was a huge success. The purpose of the event was to encourage vets to befriend other vets at JJC, answer any questions they may have about grants/finance, and most importantly have fun!

Spiderman is NOT the only hero

Michael Kruger, guest speaker and former marine, stated that he was often called the "Friendly Neighborhood Marine." This was his first time at one of these events and he wanted to make the most of it. Kruger is a manager of recruiting & retention at Cadence Premier Logistics. His primary focus at the event was to inform the veterans of their CDL Grants that needs to be processed before Oct. 1, 2018. It did not take long for him to integrate into a circle of vets with a lot to say about their personal experiences.

Exploring The Lives of Joliet's Veterans

Written by: Cadarius Banks

Vet Assistance Commission (VAC)

Two VAC representatives from different counties attended this event in hopes of touching bases with veterans. The two former military veterans were Elton L. Monson and Jen Solum. Monson is an 84-year-old superintendent in Grundy county, who files honesty claims for veterans. When asked what branch in the military he was a part of, Monson stated that "once a marine always a marine." A charming fellow, many veterans surrounded him to ask questions.

Solum retired from the Air Force in 2016. Now she is an assistant superintendent from Will county who helps veterans obtain health benefits, transition from veteran life to environmental life, and help widows with federal benefits. She even stated that her VAC offered showers and yoga to vets and anyone who stopped by. Both Monson and Solum stated that this was their first time attending this event at Joliet Junior College and that they were glad they came. Their focus was to help vets with retaining resources, mental disorders, finding food and housing and to get Patriot Grants and GI Benefits. Overall, both VAC's communicated with veterans and provided them with a better understanding of what they stood for.

Meet and Greet

Two of the veterans attending the event stated that they were from different branches of the military and that this was where they met and became friends. Nick Huizer served four years in the Army and is still currently serving as he attends Joliet Junior College for his second year. When asked what was the best part about attending one of these events he said, "Meeting people is the best part...it is a great place to meet vets and trade stories." The vet he befriended is a returning attendee of the Veteran's Lunch Bunch named Herlitra Madison. She has served in the Navy for two and a half years and also was on her second year at Joliet Junior College. They loved that the school provided a place for them to, as she says, "snack and chat."

Rodney Bullock is a veteran adviser who help vets get benefits before deadlines. He stated that vets agreed that, "They would rather get their advising from a veteran's office." He has work at Joliet Junior College since 2005 and was here to support vets in picking their classes and fill out the proper paperwork. He welcomes vets to give him a visit and says he is happy to help.

'Cyber Ops': new degrees at JJC

By Sean O'Dell

Co-Editor

The introduction of a new course, Cyber Ops, and multiple new degrees trained towards computer science excite students for fall of 2019.

Three degrees exist now under the Computer Information and Operating Systems Department, as they relate to cyber security training. They are computer and network security specialist, computer networking technologist, and network specialist.

Stan Pieklo, Associate Professor at JJC and in charge of the Cybersecurity program, is organizing a departmental shift to certain certifications. He working to term them as Associate's in Applied Science degrees, or AASs. This has huge implications in terms of student opportunity: from job security to cyber security, students will see benefit in these catalog changes in fall of 2019.

Students will be able to apply to these degrees after the release of the 2019/2020 course catalog. There are currently two cyber security-related degrees offered by JJC.

One is an AAS called

"computer/networking specialist," and the other is the certification with the same title. The difference here is that the certification does not require as many credit hours of general education classes, making it short of the Associate's degree qualification.

The thing students will notice in the upcoming catalog for 2019/2020 is the new AAS degree replacing the existing degrees. These degrees will change in title to the much cooler sounding "Cybersecurity Specialist." Computer networking technologist will be changed to information technology networking.

More changes to other CIOS degrees will be on the way.

The name change does more than just evoke a Jason Bourne-like attitude in the students who apply. The new degree will enable students to take full advantage of the course variety offered. They have the option to take elective CIOS courses of interest, and apply it to their AAS.

Another huge addition will be the transferability this title shift gives the AAS student. Pieklo is working diligently on an articulation agreement with several universities in the state, like Lewis University, Illinois

Wesleyan University, DePaul, and Illinois State University.

The most promising of these is the transferability students will be able to see to the well-established Lewis programs. Students leaving JJC's CIOS department under the new agreement for next year should be able to transfer almost all of their credits to Lewis, where they can earn their Bachelor's degree with a Cybersecurity concentration or other Computer Science discipline.

Pieklo is also an advisor to the JJC Cybersecurity team, which competes each year online against thousands of other competitors. He also had an additional perk to list among the new degree name changes: the introduction of a new course he has been developing named Cyber Ops.

"Cyber Ops has been designed as a capstone course for students to bring all that they have learned to the table," said Pieklo.

Cyber Ops will debut in fall of 2019 as well, and will be available to any students who meet the general education requirements and minimal programming ability; a course called CIS 123, Pieklo says, will help students become competent enough to take this course.

This new course will cover many security skills within several

operating systems, from linux to windows, and will complement the new Cybersecurity AAS degree.

Pieklo wants to push for students interested to come check it out. "Any student with an interest in cybersecurity can take Cyber Ops. It is designed as an 8-week course to really push students in polishing and honing their skills. In fact, students in my classes [currently] have the ability to do this through participation in the Cybersecurity."

The degree will cover what is offered in the current degrees offered at JJC. Topics like current Cyber Security trends, artificial

intelligence, current data trends, and ethical hacking will be covered in depth. Additional to the current coursework will be the Cyber Ops course along with Network Security Analyst.

Any student who is interested in a career in a growing and secure field, all pun intended, will be pleased to know that bls.gov statistics predict up to a 26% job growth up through year 2026, with a median salary of \$95,510 per year reported.

Pieklo says that students interested in the Cybersecurity program can visit the cybersecurity webpage at jjc.edu/cybersecurity.

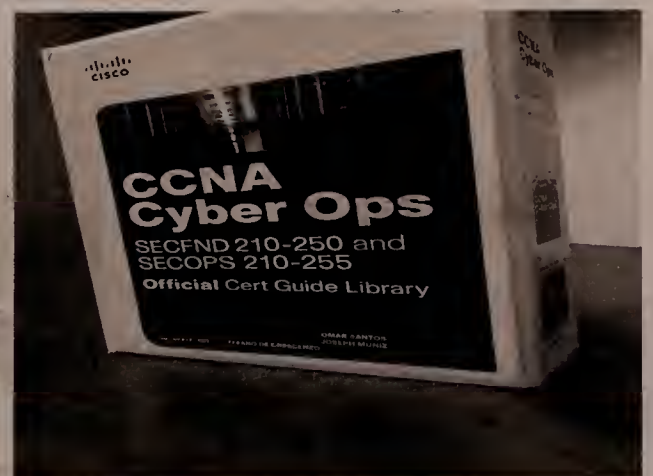


Photo by Sean O'Dell

Students from page 1

the Cybercafe were in the works months before it was discovered.

The previous Cybercafe space was turned into the Center for Excellence. The idea here is to make things more convenient for faculty and staff to meet in one place. One of the only perceived pluses from the student view is for Phi Theta Kappa, the Honors room, Dual Credit and High School Partnerships and Institutional Research and Effectiveness to be connected to the new center.

Dr. Yolanda Farmer, Vice President for Student Development, says, "Most colleges now have some version of their own Center for Excellence in order to provide training needs for JJC employees...having a central location for the center was important."

Prior to public knowledge, there had been no meetings or disclosure to the student body about this closure.

However, Farmer says something else. "Notices were provided regarding the closing of the Cybercafé to impacted faculty, staff and students."

Contradicting Farmer's statement, advocate Jefferson Cherrington, a previous president of the Gamers Club says that, "There was definitely a strong lack of communication between the administration who made that decision and the people who actually use that facility."

When Student Government got wind of the closing, they immediately called a meeting with the cabinet to obtain signatures to save the student-cherished space.

Thanks in part to their efforts, instead of cutting the Cybercafe completely, administration attempted to relocate the space to the computer labs or the library. Students expressed negative feelings about such an action and continued to fight. The aftermath was a "temporary solution space" located in T building (T-1041), however this unmarked area is not officially a Cybercafe replacement yet.

The new room is out of the way and significantly smaller. Paul

Schroeder, Nursing lab assistant and adviser of the Gamers Club, says that he attempted to work with administration to make the new room functional and maximize the space. Administration has not complied to his requests. Instead, the new room received leftover furniture.

"They did the minimum amount of work to get away with [our new Cybercafe space]," Schroeder stated.

"It's definitely 'out of sight out of mind,'" said Jacob Hollings, student at JJC majoring in Art and a member of the Gamers Club. "The student space should be somewhere you can see it."

Farmer stated that the new space contained the same computers and hoped to upgrade in the future. But students and faculty said otherwise.

According to Schroeder, the Cybercafe was given computers around 10 years old that are unable to play actual games efficiently. There are also no academic computers or printers available anymore.

Cherrington was disheartened over how administration handled the ordeal. "It sends the message to me that this space is trying to be eradicated through statistics. Because if no one can find it, no one wants to go there and because the machines don't work, then there's no need for the space."

He also decided that following this incident he would become a student advocate and attempt to fight for students: particularly, student dedicated space.

Student Government, Gamers Club, and a number of other growing clubs are all working towards obtaining a permanent dedicated student space.

Schroeder also mentioned that a few years ago, administration decided (in advance this time) to take the front half of the Cybercafe. By doing so, they eliminated the pool table, arcade games, and the overall spaciousness of the room.

Maxwell Scott-Schroeder, student at JJC majoring in Computer and Network Security and a member of the Gamers Club



The sign posted outside the old Cybercafe informing of the closure.

Photo by Madeline Wheaton

as well, stated his thoughts on the old Cybercafe. "I remember the original Cybercafe before they took away the first half of it and it was incredible. There were students who would go there just for the pool table, arcade games, and it was fun. There was more stuff to do than sit on our computer and do homework or play a video game. It was like a flashback almost and it was just... an experience you can't find everywhere. As a college student, I would have very much liked it if I could still do that."

Students began to approach Schroeder when they learned of the Cybercafe closing, even though he was not officially in charge of it. When he learned what was happening from Pam Dilday, Director of Student Activities, and when students started coming up to him for answers, he decided to step in and attempt to speak to the President, Dr. Judy Mitchell. It ended with no results.

"They just wanted someone to lead the fight, so I actually started volunteering those hours,"

Schroeder said. "Students asked me to stick up for them and represent for them, and that's what I've been doing."

The Cybercafe, in Schroeder's opinion, was just a tiny piece of the problem. The overall issue was with student space.

Student Government has been consistently bringing up the Cybercafe and the overall issue of dedicated student space as well. So far, there have been little results because administration says there are no extra spaces available. But Schroeder says differently.

"They say we can't just make space out of nothing, but you can: that's how buildings exist."

In the past, administration also attempted to defund OSA to the astonishment of the faculty and student body. It was met with harsh aggression from students going to board meetings and never passed.

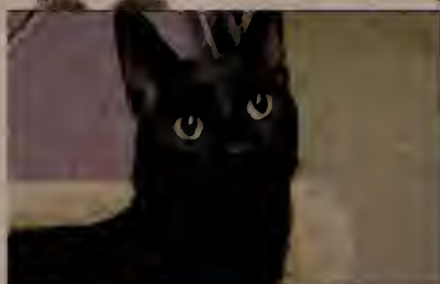
"[At] town hall meetings, [JJC] as a whole works to provide this idea that we as an organization are transparent with our students. We

are trying to communicate with our students when something happens. We don't just make moves and expect the people that we serve to 'hopefully' get the hint," Cherrington added. "That's why this situation to me has been aggravating."

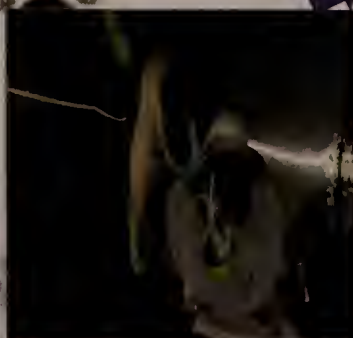
This situation may lead students to question their ability to trust the administration's interests at JJC. A student's ability to trust in administration policy and insight may be restored if a solution can be derived in the form of a Cybercafe, reminiscent of its former self.

Farmer remains hopeful for the future. She says that administration is pleased that the Cybercafe was relocated and not closed, and that the students have done a great job of expressing themselves. She also wants to commend Cyndi Vasquez-Barrios and Schroeder for working with administration and serving as a resource and student liaison.

Help Vet Tech – adopt a pet!



This kitty cat's name is Sherwin, and he is a 10-month-old male domestic short hair. He is super sweet and cuddly, lots of energy, and loves to play! Sherwin is from Joliet Township Animal Control.



This pup's name is Rowdy, and he is an 8-year-old male Rat terrier mix. He is super sweet and absolutely loves tennis balls. He is also very energetic for his age! Rowdy unfortunately has an e-collar on due to a skin infection from fleas, which he is being treated for right now! Rowdy is from Hopeful Tails.

Both will be neutered, have all their shots, are microchipped and full vetted. Adoption fees for both are \$50. Information is available through the Veterinary Technology Program. Email Kristin Hall at khall@jjc.edu for more information as well!

Remembers from page 1

“Like I said, I knew people who worked in the financial district of New York City [located in Manhattan]. They were evacuated out of Manhattan. One of the men who worked for me in the city was evacuating when one of the towers collapsed. He had to take shelter into a nook outside of the building, covering his face with his shirt and protecting himself from all the dust and debris that completely surrounded him.”

Alexander, who took the train, remembers all the train personnel, who normally were off during the middle of the day, coming back

to work immediately. The trains were being loaded as quickly as possible.

“Get on any train. As soon as they’re full, they’re leaving!”

The trains were flooded with people as they headed back to the suburbs. Many people, like Alexander, had their headphones in as they listened to updates on the radio. It was then that reports came in about the Pentagon crash.

“Before we got home, we heard the report of the collapse of the first tower. Everybody on the train was just stunned... you couldn’t believe it,” said Alexander.

He arrived at his home in Shorewood and watched the collapse of the second tower on the news with his wife. Eventually, their four young children were released early from school.

Planes were being grounded for fear that there were more terrorists in the air. The Southwest Airlines traffic normally flew right over Alexander’s house to the Midway Airport. That afternoon, he took his son to the park. Without the traffic of the planes, the park was “eerily quiet.”

Back at work, everything

stopped for a day. Upon return, workers scrambled around the clock 24/7 as there was much work to do to get their system back up and running. In about four to five days, they were back up on their feet.

Additionally, a van was loaded up with about 20 computers and sent out to set up a work area on the east coast, just outside of Manhattan, in an effort to try to get the business back up and running.

“Little by little, the company started to return to business as usual. But it was never going to be the same.”

Today, Alexander works as an application developer at JJC. He

gave a wonderful performance of “America the Beautiful” at the school’s twelfth annual 9/11 ceremony, a day just as clear and sunny as 17 years ago.

Sept. 11 continues to be a day in which people across the nation gather to remember the loss of thousands of victims and the ones affected by their death. JJC has carried on this annual tradition for 12 years and will undoubtedly continue to do so.

Just as Alexander and his family brought out their sidewalk chalk and drew the American Flag on their driveway on that September afternoon, we today lower the flag at half-staff in honor of these tragic events.

Police blotter

Student charged in parking lot incident

Sandra J. Lopez-Ortiz, Joliet, was issued two citations on Aug. 20, 2018 at 3:15 p.m. They were issued the Illinois State Citation and JJC Student Code for Violation of College Law and Policies for failing to give information after striking an unattended, parked pickup truck.

When asked by officers if she collided with the truck, Lopez-Ortiz said “yes,” and when asked why it was not reported she responded, “I didn’t know what to do.”



The flag at half-mast on September 11. Photo by Stephania Rodriguez

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The Society of Physics Students at Mainstreet.

Photo by Nicole Bertic



Students in the C-Concourse during Mainstreet.

Photo by Nicole Bertic

Mainstreet has magic once again

By Sean O'Dell

Co-Editor

In the flag hallway, empty tables sat. They waited with an electric anticipation of chaos to come. A good kind of chaos. The reason: it was Mainstreet week at JJC once again.

On Sept. 5 and 6, students were found in the flag hallway on main campus exploring an event called Mainstreet. This event is an organized conglomerate of all of the extracurricular clubs one might find at JJC. It is hosted by the school's Office of Student Activities, located within the flag hall itself.

Students present spoke with club leaders and made new connections. Some students even signed their names to a precarious dotted line... for clubs to reach out to them via email.

At the start of every new semester, students at JJC prepare to engage in the time-honored pursuit of a college education. For many, this preparatory time for intellectual and personal growth, as well as a time for exploration in its purest form before getting into the full swing of classes.

Mainstreet is an event which aims to stimulate this particular exploration phenomenon in all students, new and returning. It is an event which features a smorgasbord of ideas and governments, all which focus on a unique interest or cause.

Some returning clubs of years past in attendance this year included Gamer's Club, Student Sustainability Union, Natural Sciences Club, Nursing Student Association, and many more.

There were a few up and coming clubs never before seen at JJC. The Student Physics Club and Computer Science Club hope to make a strong start this semester, each appealing to STEM-minded students from a unique angle.

The layout of this event was straightforward and easily accessible for students passing by. Each club is assigned a table, which is their "self-promotion" post over the course of two days. During this time, clubs organize handouts, posters, and exhibits to try and win the attention of passing students. Indeed, there is a competitive spirit among the clubs, but every table sees action.

At JJC, it takes 10 students start a club. Presently, JJC has 37 clubs, each with a unique focus. If a student is interested in something which is not represented in existing clubs, they need only visit the OSA office to discuss a means to create one.

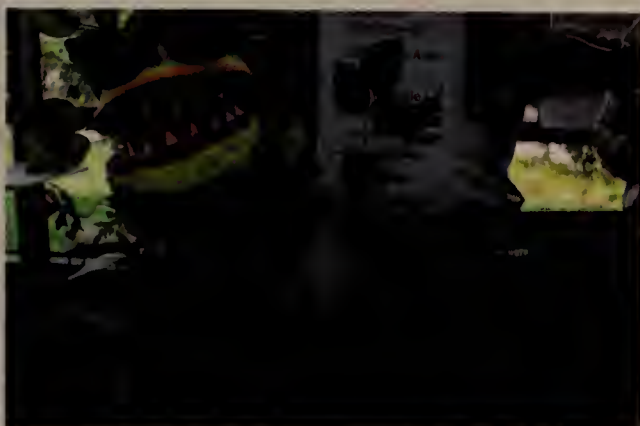
Prior to the event kicking off this year, coordinator of student

wellness and activities Amy Sims had some tips for the incoming student who may initially shy away from the cacophony.

"My first point of advice", says Sims, "would be for students on campus... [to] attend club meetings and allow themselves to make friends."

Sims says that she observes many students throughout a semester, and in fact the happiest students are those who actively participate in clubs on campus. She is a strong advocate for students, and advances the idea that all humans need a sense of community and belonging.

As the name implies, JJC as a community college has a lot to offer in terms of communal belonging.



A plant at the Student Horticulture Association.

Photo by Nicole Bertic



The JJC Gamers' Club at Mainstreet.

Photo by Nicole Bertic



Photo by Nicole Bertic

Adviser Maria Rafac with Student Sustainability Union members.

Success from page 1

Board. He communicates and attends meetings with the rest of the board and makes sure they know what the Student Government's opinion is.

Both Hancock and Schroeder were voted into office on the meeting that took place on Sept. 13.

Student Government is in charge of hosting many events throughout the semester. Their first accomplishment of the year was Welcome Week. The event was spread across two days during the first Wednesday and Thursday of the semester. Welcome Week had something for everyone, including free food, music, tie dye, and even a water balloon pitch to raise money for charity.

They made a successful appearance at Mainstreet attracting many new members and guests to attend meetings to follow.

On Sept. 19, members of Student Government along with members of other clubs will speak in front of local high schools. Members will talk about the positive aspects of joining activities while being a part of JJC.

October will be an exciting month for the club. They are hosting Stress Relief which will take place outside in the picnic grove. On Mon., Oct. 8, they will have a mobile escape room. Oct. 9 will feature painting. On the last day, Oct. 10, they will have games such as bean bags, kanjam, and much more.

They are also hosting the 5th annual Haunted 5k Walk/Run on Oct. 21. Student Government will help with games and activities for the children who come to the event.

Other than events, members and the board have already talked about some very important happenings at JJC. One of the larger topics was that JJC is considering charging \$80 for high school students to take dual-credit classes. Members were concerned that would stop potential students from taking these courses. They also wanted to know exactly what the money for the classes would go to.

They also discussed the topics of the Cybercafe moving, and Romeville cafeteria being shut down and switched with vending machines.

Check back for more updates!

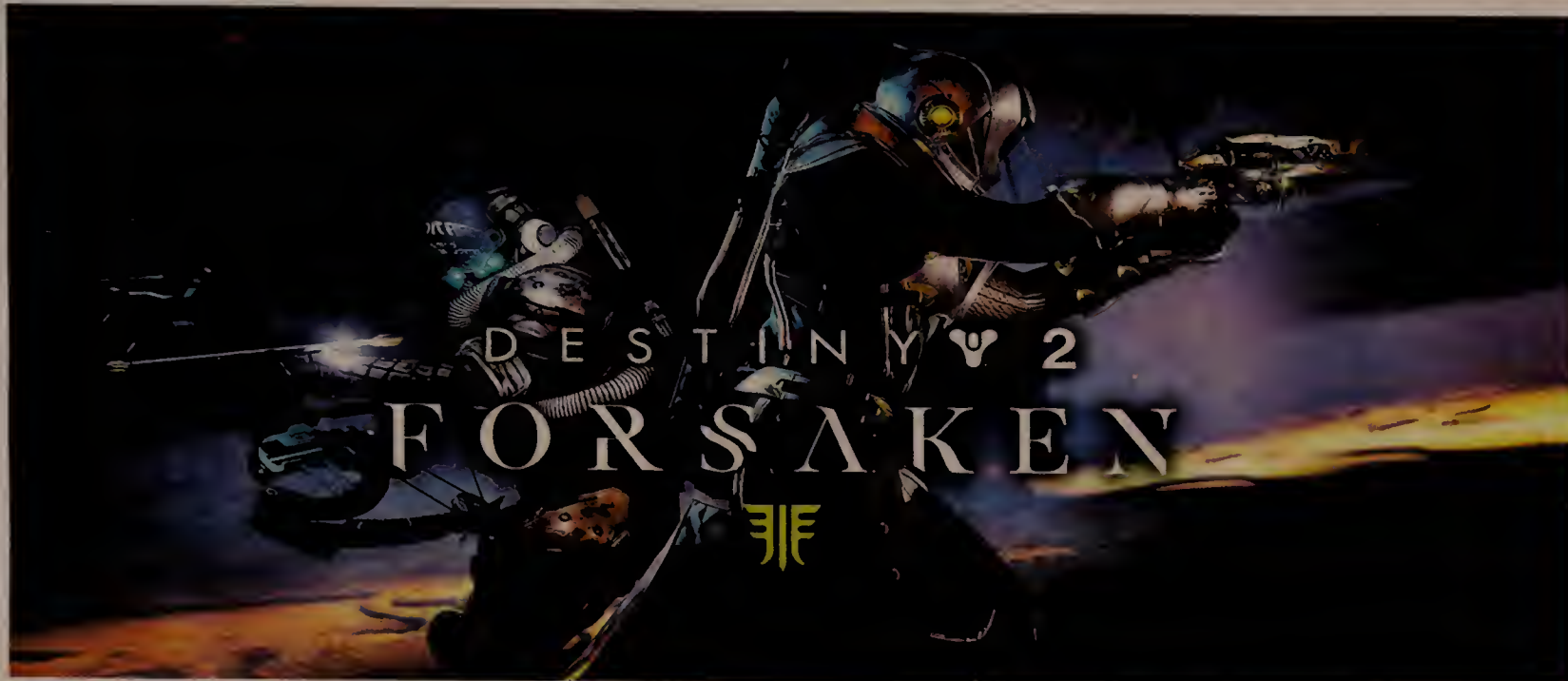


Photo courtesy of Gamespot

Give 'Destiny 2 Forsaken' a chance

By Justin Mazurkiewicz

Staff Writer

With the newest DLC for "Destiny 2" releasing last week, the Destiny franchise has started to make a bit of an impact again.

Once again, Bungie has managed to make a large-sized DLC to fix what made the original version of the game so lackluster. Many people are probably feeling a case of déjà-vu with "Destiny 2" now, because this kind of "fix the game through a large DLC" situation is the exact same thing that happened with the first "Destiny" release.

The first two DLCs for "Destiny 2" were laughably

bad, resulting in a lot of people leaving the game behind much like the first one. So the real question still remains: should you give "Destiny" a chance again?

The answer for this is pretty simple, but it depends on how much you are willing to spend.

First of all, "Forsaken" is a wonderful DLC. It brings so much more to the game than what "Destiny 2" originally had. The story that the player goes through is spectacular and the new areas you get to go to, like the Tangled Shore and the Dreaming City, are very beautiful.

The new music also adds to the wonderfully epic space that

"Destiny" has shaped throughout both of its installments. All of the new activities, game modes, and events that people can sink their teeth into allow the player to never have nothing to do.

The new game mode called Gambit was something that I was personally skeptical about being good, but I was very wrong. It makes the perfect blend of fighting other players and working with friends to take out huge monsters.

The only part where the "Forsaken DLC" goes a little sour is the price tag and requirements needed to even purchase "Forsaken" from the get-go.

It turns out that for players to even buy "Forsaken" in the first place, one also needs to purchase the first two DLCs. Those first two DLCs cost \$20 as a bundle deal plus "Forsaken" by itself costs another \$40.

Playstation plus members can actually grab the normal copy of "Destiny 2" for free then just have to buy the DLCs, or people can also get the new "Forsaken" Deluxe edition that comes with everything from base game to "Forsaken" for the same price of \$60.

Besides the cost being the base price now but with more content, it feels unnecessary to even include the first two

DLCs since they were so below average to begin with. Either way, be ready to dish out an extra \$20 if you've steered clear of those first two expansions up until now. The "Forsaken" expansion still does fix a lot of problems and brings a lot more to the table, which makes that \$40 price tag by itself worth it. If you haven't already given it a shot and have a little extra cash in your wallet, give "Destiny 2" a shot. If you left "Destiny 2" and are thinking about giving it another try, it's never a better time to get back into it.

Chicago celebrates with jazz festival

By Stephania Rodriguez

Staff Writer

Calling all lovers of jazz! This year, Chicago's annual Jazz Music Festival jammed out at multiple venues from Aug. 24 through Sept. 2 and wowed the crowds.

Held at Millennium Park and the Chicago Cultural Center, the city's best jazz musicians come together and dedicate the entire week prior to Labor Day to celebrate jazz music.

Inspired by composer and bandleader Duke Ellington, the city celebrated its 40th festival this year! Bands, high school ensembles, trios, and quintets were among the many performances in attendance.

Headline performances by Ramsey Lewis and Kurt Elling, both Chicago-born, were also included.

This year, I attended the Sept. 1 Harris Theater Rooftop show and was left extremely impressed by all the young and talented performers!

The Eric Solorio high school jazz ensemble took the win for my favorite performance.

This group, led by Madiline Molldinado and Carlos Ayento, had performers both young and old on drums, bass, and more.

Young bass player Lydia stunned the audience as she switched from bass to vocals, performing "Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars."

Chris Sanchez and Ruben Alvarez both stole the show with their execution of the drums and congas.

I was very impressed at how young most of the group was and the talent they possessed. They managed to put on a terrific show with their hard work and received a standing ovation.

The event has free admission, giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy. Also included are concession stands for you to reboot your energy, not to mention the hundreds of restaurants already located in the city. Some people were even enjoying picnics. With plenty of space to walk (or dance) around, the event is family friendly with plenty of things to do while still enjoying the music.

The birthplace of several musical genres, such as gospel



A performance during the Jazz Music Festival on Aug 24.

Photo by Stephania Rodriguez

and house music, Chicago held a festival in the summer of 1974, a few weeks after the death of Ellington. The city's best jazz artists came together to honor him and his legacy.

Back then, 10,000 people came out to celebrate and jam out to the music. It was in 1979 when

the Jazz Institute of Chicago made its own August Festival. Then, the Mayor's Office of Special Events decided to make it official, turning it into an annual event enjoyed to this day. Programmed by the Jazz Institute and coordinated by The Department of Cultural Affairs,

the event welcomes crowds of up to 125,000 people each year!

Jazz Fest was very enjoyable and would definitely be worth re-attending. Next time you're in Chicago for Labor Day weekend, make sure to check out the Jazz Fest and support your local musicians.

It's all about K-Pop and BTS

By Dana Co

Staff Writer

Like it or not, there's no escape from them. Every time you turn on the radio, TV, log into Twitter or Tumblr, or even flip through the pages of a magazine, they're always there. John Cena is obsessed with them.

No, not the Kardashians. I'm talking about one of the most unlikely, albeit successful, international music phenomena, BTS, or Bangtan Sonyeondan.

Whether you've heard of them, have no idea who these guys are, or you're just genuinely curious to know what all the hype is about, here's some facts and just a few reasons why you should consider stanning.

BTS is a seven member boy band from Seoul, South Korea, consisting of rappers: Kim "Rap Monster/RM", Namjoon, Min "Suga" Yoongi, and Jung "J-Hope" Hoseok. Their vocal line consists of: Kim "V" Taehyung, Jeon "Kookie" Jungkook, Park Jimin, and Kim "Jin" Seokjin.

The group debuted on June 12, 2013, and in the K-pop industry you need to audition. If selected, you're put into training, which is where you work on your singing, dancing, and acting skills, and will learn to speak different languages.

Though they do come from South Korea, which is known as a powerhouse when it comes to producing some of the biggest acts and names in modern music, such as EXO, Shinee, GOT 7,

Big Bang, LOONA, Red Velvet, and BlackPink to name a few, it wasn't easy.

They started from practically nothing, having to ask people to come see their shows, even being so poor that they had to cast staff members into their music videos.

Yoongi's parents weren't supportive, and would even throw his songs into the trash, telling him to focus on school. However, little did they know that in three years, that was all about to change.

While their first few albums, titled School Trilogy along with their EP, gained moderate success, it was really their sophomore album, Wings, that thrust them into the international spotlight.

With singles such as "Blood, Sweat, and Tears", and "MAMA"

propelling them to the top of the international charts, that was only one of the first steps in their story of pain and gain.

So, exactly what is it that makes these boys so successful in countries that don't even speak Korean, or causes people that aren't even Korean or Asian themselves to adore them so much?

While at first glance, they may just seem like another group of pretty boys who can sing and dance, it takes a lot more than good looks and catchy hooks. Their music, while primarily marketed to millennial and Gen Z females, is known for being socially conscious; "No More Dream" and "N.O." cover their frustrations with how children are treated in the education system.

In Asia, the education systems are a lot stricter, with parents and teachers more likely to encourage children to strive for success rather than doing what they love.

"Bapsae" discusses the generation gap regarding wealth and opportunities, and they even get political in "I Am Wrong", criticizing the indifference of people who aren't politically active. They're even shown to be supporters of feminism, as the song "21st Century Girl" encourages women to be strong on their own.

Their music is also experimental; while they do rap, in their latest single, "IDOL" they incorporate African beats. "Danger" and "Boy in Luv" include elements of R&B and even rock.

The septet is also notable for their large social media presence; as of Sept. 2018, they have 11 million subscribers on YouTube,

16 million followers on Twitter, 12 million followers on Instagram, and have even been retweeted more times than Justin Bieber and President Trump. They are even the first Korean artists to beat out chart toppers such as Ed Sheeran, Ariana Grande, and Taylor Swift in winning Top Social Artist at the Billboard Music Awards in 2017.

While the boys are a force to be reckoned with, don't underestimate the fandom, also known as the ARMY (Adorable Representative M.C. for Youth) they're one of the reasons BTS is worldwide famous. Being an ARMY myself, don't think for a second that we won't defend them to the death should anyone insult them, and don't think that we won't stop stanning anytime soon.

We're arguably one of the most diverse fanbases in the world. Most of the ARMY identifies as LGBTQIA+, along with many of them being people of color, with tens of thousands coming from all over the world, from the Caymans to California. The second they post a tweet or a photo, or even just a preview on YouTube, we're the first ones to like, comment, and share.

There are thousands of fan accounts on Twitter and fan blogs, along with fanart and fanfiction on Tumblr and elsewhere dedicated to Bangtan as many dedicated to Harry Potter.

Overall, BTS's journey to fame and recognition has only begun, and don't think it's going to stop anytime soon.

BTS at the American Music Awards in 2017. From left to right: V, Suga, Jin, Jungkook, Rap Monster, Jimin, and J-Hope.



BTS at American Music Awards in 2017.

Photo courtesy of Kstarlive.com

'Life is strange' with a side of cringe

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

"Life is Strange"-no doubt one of the best episodic adventure of its' time due to the great plot - but also one of the most cringey dialogue I've ever seen with a sprinkle of botched lip syncing and a "hella" amount of...well... "hella."

It follows the story of Maxfield "Max" Caulfield, a photography student who has just moved back to Blackwell Academy in Arcadia Bay, discovers she can rewind time. She and Chloe Price, her best friend from five years prior, go on an adventure to discover the reason to the mysterious disappearance of Rachel Amber.

But despite having an amazing power of rewinding time, Max comes to learn that changing the past may lead to devastating

consequences.

This story is amazing. The fact that you have multiple choices - choices I didn't even know I had during the first playthrough - makes the story much more interesting. The plot deals with bullying, suicide, forgiveness, acceptance, and so much more. I don't want to spoil you guys if you haven't played: but you will fall in love.

I was transfixed and shed tears as we watched Max grow throughout the episodes from an awkward, cringe-inducing teenager to an awesome young adult who learns to fight for what's right.

I will admit, there are plot holes. Many times I sat there and I was "hella" confused by what had just happened. Dialogues would jump around randomly, giving me whiplash. And the lip syncing was extremely off.

But this was only with episodes one and two: after they were released and we received episode three, you could tell they really worked to fix these things. And they did for the most part.

Plot holes were still evident due to the fact that the game wanted us to get to certain places and needed to ignore certain dialogues and actions to do so.

Now, I may have bashed the dialogue in the beginning. A lot. With hipster phrases being used such as "shaka brah," "hella," and many more, it did made me laugh but also cringe on the inside. I also say that with some interactions between characters: for example, when Max attempted to give Warren his flash drive, he tried to hug her at the same time and awkwardly took it back.

But while I think bashing the dialogue is justified, I realized

something. Max and Chloe grew up exponentially due to their experiences, and although this game was released in 2015, I find that maybe this game meant for us to watch them grow up throughout the game. It also made me realize that we are playing as a far-from-perfect cast, but we love her because of this.

Another criticism is that the game will come to two ultimatums in the end, and despite the choices you made during the game, they won't influence these choices at all.

But these choices are so real and devastating, which makes me realize that this is what life is truly like. I learned that you truly cannot change the past without changing the future, for better or worse.

If you're looking for a story game, this is it. If you're looking for an actual video game with

action, this isn't your cup of tea.

The game, developed by Dontnod Entertainment and was published by Square Enix released episode one on Jan. 29, 2015 and continued to release all five episodes within a span of nine months.

"Life is Strange: Before the Storm" follows Chloe Price's story before "Life is Strange" with her new friend Rachel Amber. It's available on Steam and Playstation and Xbox.

"Life is Strange 2" episode one comes out Sept. 27, 2018 and will release the other five episodes at later dates. It follows brothers Sean and Daniel Diaz who are forced to run away from home after a tragic incident in Seattle while concealing a new supernatural power.

Remember folks: life is hella strange, and it's about to get stranger.

What is the hurry people?



By John Saffrahn
Sports Editor

Ever since the invention of the Internet, Americans have become more and more impatient with just about everything in this world, from standing in line to phone reception.

That impatience has finally spread to the purest of American pastimes - baseball.

The average baseball game in 2018 took over three hours to complete a nine inning game, decreasing only five minutes from the 2017 season.

At the beginning of the 2017 season, several new rules were implemented in an attempt to help speed up the game and create a fast-paced atmosphere similar to other sports.

The reason for speeding up the game is a feeble attempt to attract

more viewers, resulting in more profits for the MLB. Essentially, it is an attempt to become more like the NFL which is known to be the most profitable of the major professional sports and also one, if not the, most popular sports nationwide.

One of the new rules being enforced is that the pitcher has a time limit in between innings before he throws the first pitch. They are given more time during national and playoff games; but only because those commercial slots are worth more money, not because the player necessarily deserves it.

The pitcher is also not guaranteed eight warm up pitches anymore, along with a limit of six mound visits per team.

One of the biggest factors that determines the speed of the game is the pitchers strike-to-ball ratio.

All of these rules and regulations are aimed at the pitcher: the most important player on the field. The pitcher is the only player guaranteed to touch the baseball every single play, so what he does affects every single play.

If the league really wanted to speed up the game, they would not rush the pitcher onto the field and limit his time to get ready. They should allow him as much time as he wants to prepare so that when the inning actually

starts, he is more likely to throw strikes. This would limit walks and long counts which make the game drag.

The MLB has definitely shifted its marketing to focus more on offense than defense in recent years because casual viewers are more interested in home runs and 10-run games. However, it cannot be forgotten that without the pitcher to throw the baseball, the hitter can't hit it and therefore should be given the same opportunities to prepare.

Undoubtedly, the league could have gone a different direction in their attempt to shorten the game. They could put a limit on how many times each team's batters can step out of the batter's box when the pitcher is set to throw. It is something that happens at almost every bat, at least 54 times a game.

One of those rules involved instant replays. All of the instant replay challenges slow the game down considerably as well, but this is actually a good rule change for the game.

What is puzzling is if the league is willing make a good rule change that will slow down the game, why would they make so many bad changes to speed up the game?

They have even started showing short commercials in between pitches, ruining the flow of the

game and aggravating viewers.

Discussing money, the MLB is not starving to death by any means. In this past off-season, Giancarlo Stanton, outfielder and designated hitter for the New York Yankees, just signed the biggest contract in league history for \$325 million over 13 years.

In 2000, Alex Rodriguez signed a 10 year contract worth \$252 million. At the time, this was the largest contract in sports history, not just baseball. In only 18 years, the highest paid athlete's contract has gone up by over \$70 million.

Stanton is just one of many monstrous contracts signed in recent memory, indicating that if the players' salaries keep going up, would profits not go up as well?

It also begs the question of if the MLB has gone this far, what will it take for them to stop here?

What will the game of baseball look like in years to come? Surely there are sports fans out there that do not possess the patience or understanding of the game to sit through a three hour game that is in no hurry to wrap up. But real baseball fans will all agree, the game of baseball is a simple one and it has been that way for over 100 years. It does not fit into today's mold of commerciality and marketing, and is in no hurry to end when it is convenient for the viewers.

For the MLB to compete with the NFL is ill advised. True fans love baseball for what it is: don't try and change into something it is not.

The MLB is not running out of money as it would have you believe, but it soon will be if it continues to change and complicate America's oldest, and simplest game.



Photo courtesy of MLB website

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Wolves from page 1

seven of the ten players on their roster being freshman. The three returning sophomores are Cuay Whitener, Megan Teschke, and Isabella Cosentino.

"Our sophomore returners are very key," said Brown. According to him, so far, the returners have played a big part in the Lady Wolves' success.

Whitener leads the team with 217 kills and 833 total attacks.

She is also the team leader in points with 252.5.

Cosentino, the setter, has also been pivotal to the team's success. She has 505 of the team's 543 assists. Even more impressive considering the Lady Wolves are ranked fourth in the nation in assists.

It is not just the returners who have helped the team to victory, but also the newcomers.

"We have been very fortunate with all of our newcomers," said Brown.

Freshman Emma Sweeney has had a breakout season so far, leading the nation in digs with 319.

Other notable freshman performances so far this season include Anna Breusche, Shea Kieldyk and Taylor Van Duyn with 402, 307, and 218 total

attacks respectively.

The team will next look to defend its home turf against the Illinois Valley Community College Eagles on Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. They will then defend on their home turf again during the Joliet Junior College Quad Tournament against Elgin Community College Spartans at 9 a.m., and will play again once the bracket is determined at 11 a.m.

Looking forward, the Lady Wolves will have another match with Rock Valley on Oct. 9 to try and defeat them once again. This will be a good, competitive game to get them ready for the regional tournament, which will be held at Harper College Oct. 27.

There is still a lot of matches to be played, and the Lady Wolves are ready for the challenge.

Mens soccer in action



Jaime Hulchapa during the game against Harper College.

Photo by Nicole Bertic



Leonardo Haro looks to make a pass against Harper.

Photo by Nicole Bertic

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Sports

Women's soccer breaks top 10 in the nation

By Ricky Saravia

Staff Writer

The JJC Lady Wolves soccer team have become a threat in the college soccer world this season as they defeat the competition day in and day out.

The team is currently on a six game winning streak and climbing the leaderboards as they do it.

JJC Lady Wolves are currently ranked ninth in the nation in Division III sports which was last updated on Sept. 11, 2018. According to the NCJAA Division III women's soccer roster.

The statistics did not include the win they received on the Sept. 10 after crushing Triton College in a match ending with the score 8-0.

In addition, JJC is highly ranked nationally in specific categories in soccer as well. Here are just a few examples: first in assists, fourth in goals scored, and third in shots taken on target.

The Lady Wolves have made their presence known, even on a grand platform. They're on a roll and show no signs of slowing

down soon.

"They had a good season last year and a lot of the players from last year have returned," said NCJAA Hall Of Fame baseball coach and JJC sports director Wayne L. King Jr. as he watched on the sidelines in the shade "With a lot of talent coming back we should have a good season."

Well, he wasn't wrong.

With a home record of 3-0 and an away record of 3-1, opposition can expect problems wherever the Wolves pull up to.

Not only is the team making national leaderboards as a unit, some players are making a national spotlight as well.

Sophomore Miranda Nirchi is currently ranked at number eight for goals with 13 goals scored and ranked 10 in shots taken with 39 taken in the short season.

Sophomore Lindsey Bond is ranked 10 in the assist category with eight assisted this season, showing true sportsmanship and unselfishness to help the team get on top.

The Lady Wolves have elite players in their arsenals that create opportunity for not only themselves, but for their teammates as well.

"With a lot of talent coming back, we should have a good season."

-Wayne L. King Jr.

"It's always a great feeling to score. You're taking part in your team," said Nirchi with a cheek to cheek smile. "It's not even the goal: it's the soccer behind it."

The Lady Wolves are not afraid to show confidence and trust in their teammates. The ball movement and chemistry in this team is what makes them a well, oiled machine.

The team shows pride in their craft as they are consistently bringing the best out of each other to accomplish a common goal. Winning. And having fun while doing it.

This team is something special. The Lady Wolves will put on show and are a force to be reckoned with.

They're here and hungry.



Photo by Nicole Bertic

Alyssa Baron moves the ball up the field against Harper College.



Jazmine Baltazar, left, goes for the kick.

Photo by Nicole Bertic



Tiffany Lehmann fights for control of the ball against Harper College.

Photo by Nicole Bertic

Mens Soccer Christian Galvan



Christian Galvan has had 2 games with 2 goals against Triton College and Illinois Valley Community College. He also had an assist in both games. He leads the team in goals and assists with 5 of each. He also is the team leader of shots on goal with 15.

Womens Soccer Miranda Nirchi



Miranda Nirchi had a season high 3 goals against The Triton College Trojans. She also had 8 shots on goal in that game which led the team. She has 13 goals on the season and 7 assists. Nirchi has a team leading shot on goal percentage of .692.

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Student govt. hosts Stress Relief Week

By Meghan Blenck

Assistant Production Manager

Stress: a feeling the majority of college students are used to. Stress comes from everything, such as school work, exams, extracurriculars, having a job, friends, and family. It is the ever looming feeling that 24 hours is just not enough time in the day.

A little stress from time to time isn't a bad thing. In fact, it can give students motivation to get things done, but to feel stressed all the time is unhealthy. It also can have permanent damages to your body. Sadly, according to stress.org, eight out of 10 college students deal with chronic stress on a daily basis.

"For us, stress relief week is making sure the students are okay, and giving back to them. Letting them know if they need anything we are here, making sure they are okay, and providing things for them. You know, help them get their minds off exams," said Student Government President Malcohm Frenzel. "We just want to take some of the stress of their shoulders."

That's why student government has been hosting stress relief: for the benefit of the students. It is a newer tradition that has been going on between three and four years.

It began Monday, Oct. 8 and continued on until Wednesday, Oct. 11. This year's events took place at the picnic grove, except for the final day which took place in the in the lower J-building due to weather.

Monday's event was called "Escape Your Stress," which featured a mobile escape room from Mobile Escapes out of Chicago. The theme of the escape room was super heroes. Over 100 students got to go in and figure out the challenge,

See Student page 8

Market debuts at Romeoville



The Romeoville micro market.

Photo by Meghan Blenck

By Meghan Blenck

Assistant Production Manager

The Joliet Junior College Romeoville campus made the decision at the end of the 2018 spring semester to do away with the traditional cafeteria.

Most people are familiar with Joliet Junior College's main campus, but one of the best things about JJC is that it has a total of five extension campuses. These campuses are located in Romeoville, Morris, Frankfort, Weitendorf, and City Center in downtown Joliet.

Over the summer, JJC decided to take out the traditional cafeteria and decided to go with an outside vendor, a company called Hometown Vending. The company is in

See Market page 4

JJC prof finishes late mentors book

By Cadarrius Banks

Staff Writer

JJC Physics professor Andrew C.H Morrison was called upon to finalize the legacy of the well-renowned scientist William Ralph Bennett Jr, recently releasing the text that comprises the scientist's lifelong work

shortly after Bennet's passing (†).

After Bennett was laid to rest, the Chair of the Acoustical Society of America Musical Acoustics Technical Committee's Andrew C. H. Morrison was called in by the family of Bennett to put a finishing touch on the unfinished

book Bennett had dedicated a great deal of his life perfecting.

Loving the work Bennett had already accomplished, Morrison was honored to take on the task and agreed to co-edit not only "Volume one", but also "Volume two." Morrison expressed, "Unfortunately William and I never got to meet in person, but

from what I read in his rough draft and what was previously known about his legacy, I felt like I got a great insight on the scientist behind the science and what he intended to entail."

Being that his area of research has, for many years, been in the

See Mentors page 7

Cross country gearing up for nationals

By John Saffrahn

Sports Editor

Both the men and women's Joliet Junior College cross country team have been putting in hard work all season long getting ready to compete at nationals taking place on Nov. 3.

The men's cross country team is made up of freshmen Coby Hageman, Cody Hannig, Stephan McGarel, Efrain Quintero, and sophomores

Michael Rodriguez, Jesus Tenorio, Jaime Quintero and Peter Klepec.

The women's team is made up of Julia Aguilar, Cambrie Gallichio, Ana Pineda, and Erynn Wakefield who are all freshmen.

The teams are led by head coach Richard McCarthy and assistant coaches Jason Sutton and Alex Casserly. This is

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Photo courtesy of Richard McCarthy

Mens and womens 2018-2019 cross country team photo.

Check out
what is
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Chaos follows Kavanaugh

The Brett Kavanaugh debacle began as a political outburst which turned into a moral rampage in the past month, resulting in Kavanaugh being sworn in on Oct. 6, 2018.

President Donald Trump nominated Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court on July 8, 2018. Before Kavanaugh's official nomination, Palo Alto University Professor of Psychology, Christine Blasey Ford, contacted a Washington Post tip line with allegations saying Kavanaugh had assaulted her during a high school gathering in the 80s.

Two other women, Deborah Ramirez and Julie Swetnick, also came forward and testified against Kavanaugh, saying they were also victims of sexual assault.

Ford decided to do a polygraph test and passed with flying colors in order to prove that she was honest with her allegations. Kavanaugh did not agree to take one and although a polygraph is not always accurate, it could have helped Kavanaugh's case a bit in the sense that he was willing to prove himself not guilty. However, he opted out, which definitely contributed to the turbulence of the trial as a

whole.

What's more, the FBI was sent to investigate Kavanaugh. Instead of launching a full investigation, they only completed a partial investigation due to a lack of time and depth they were allowed to go into it. It was ultimately up to the discretion of the White House, and since Trump was the one to nominate Kavanaugh, you can see how that had a large influence on the investigation.

More allegations arose after this investigation. Sworn under oath, an accuser claims that Kavanaugh lied through his teeth about numerous incidents concerning his past. James Roche, a friend from Kavanaugh's notorious high school days, accused him of lying under oath about sexually assaulting Ramirez, his drinking habits, and a yearbook entry in high school.

According to Roche, Kavanaugh would consistently get "blackout drunk" and he lied about a sexual game name, saying it was "simply a drinking game".

On Saturday, Oct. 6, Kavanaugh stood before the Senate, where he was nominated by a vote of 50-48. He was sworn in later that day

despite the outcries in the streets of D.C.

This sticky situation leaves Americans with a question: what are the implications for our country? It is clear that, regardless of those who still pine for justice, or those who felt he was innocent until proven guilty, that Kavanaugh's presence on the Supreme Court will change America for generations to come.

In a society riddled with black and white thinking, serious questions about Kavanaugh's hearing and election process are left dangerously unanswered. Do Americans really view this man as unfit to judge, due to the cacophony surrounding him? After the dust has settled in what was anything but a seamless functioning of our democratic process, is it safe to trust Kavanaugh to remain unbiased in his judgment after what he might have perceived as a direct threat on his life from the other side of the aisle?

Many agree his charges were not thoroughly investigated in the end. Add this to the other witnesses and victims who were deprived of the spotlight, one might experience vertigo if they stood on top of a mountain of printed out objections to his

election.

The Senate, per the view of the American audience by now, is dysfunctional and corrupt at best. We can only hope that as part of the Supreme Court he will become a man who works his heart out to attempt to repair the damage to the court and his own reputation.

Was he guilty? Was he innocent? As Article 11 reads, he is "innocent until proven guilty" by a fair court of law. But, if this is the case, how is it that so many feel the trial was handled with political malice? The moral fortitude of both the accuser and defendant were called into action, in a public "trial by fire" from those standing on both sides of the aisle.

No matter where a person stands politically, it should be pointed out that this entire situation has become riddled with emotions, leaving it difficult for the public to decipher candidly observable truth from defensive political maneuvering.

The Kavanaugh debacle was not handled right and it will be a continuing narrative of the country for a long while to come.

BLAZER STAFF

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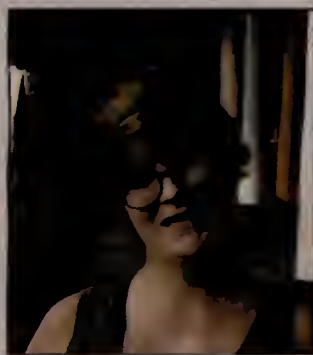
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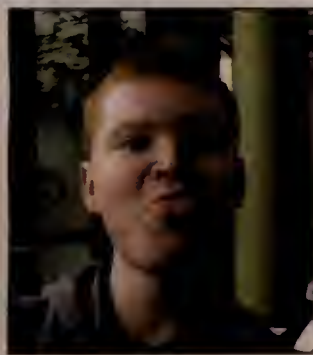
Question of the Issue:

Sci-fi vs supernatural



Ashley Duddleston

"I choose ghosts. When I was younger, my best friend's house was haunted by a ghost... with the same name as mine!"



Corwin Nau

"I prefer Sci-fi. I like to see the different paths people think humanity can take; from the bright eyed 'Star Trek,' to the dystopian universes like 'Mad Max.'"



Abigail Harris

"I prefer ghosts, because its more scary to me to think they were real people before, with experiences from their life making them haunt the living after death. I think ghosts choose specific people to haunt..."



Anna Skolarus

"I prefer Sci-fi, inspired by the series 'Ender's Game.' I find Sci-fi to be fascinating, because it has things like space and time travel. I like how a series like Ender's Game are more believable than not, because in real life we do have space travel capabilities."

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Jess Because I Can

It's a woman's choice in a set society



By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

These stories are based on personal events, experiences, or any outside influence and an alias is used for anyone involved in the story.

Women are expected at some point in their lives to bear children. Maybe we do it because we're pressured by society and our partner. Maybe we do it because we want that adorable bundle of joy. Maybe we do it because it's simply the act of giving life.

But what if the woman decided that she didn't want children?

On a Saturday night, I got a call from Donna, one of my good friends from high school. Days prior, she had told me ecstatically of her decision to

get a tubal ligation - tying her tubes, effectively ending her baby factory permanently.

She didn't like the idea of having to go through childbirth and wanted to live her life free to focus on herself and her soon-to-be husband. He simply respected her choice and had a similar lifestyle.

She and her fiancé Matt had decided a week ago to go through with it and finally requested an appointment to be interviewed for her "mental stability" and such.

Her call was heartbreaking. Instead of calling with joy, all I heard were tears in her voice. She said, "Every single doctor denied me except one. I went to five, Jess..."

"Why?" I asked.

I heard her take a deep, solidifying breath and then she answered, "Some of them said such degrading things, like how I was too young to make a decision like this at my age... even though I'm 27 and getting a Masters degree. 'Come back in a few years with kids,' they said. 'You'll change your mind in a few years and regret it,' they said. And I couldn't even say anything back because I had to remain 'mentally stable.'"

I heard her sobbing in the background while frustration was

building in me.

"They weren't even all men... three of them were women, and they said the same thing. That I would want children eventually and I would regret it if I did it now. The last one finally said yes, but she gave me this look like I had no idea what I was doing. Even though someone finally said yes- I feel awful about it. I

don't know if it's really worth it anymore."

Doctors believe that they know best. But a woman's body is her own, and it should be up to her. This wasn't just about Donna's situation.

Donna's body was her own. When did society dictate that she had to have children? When did they decide they knew her better

than she knew herself?

This is for every woman who struggles everyday for recognition, for respect and dignity. Women have the right to choose without the repercussions of people considered to be "smarter" or "richer." It's a woman's choice to do what they want, and society should not take that away from us.



Photo courtesy of cru.org

Have no fear, JJC freshmen

By Joshua Henderson

Staff Writer

I am a month into my sophomore year, and I still have only a vague idea about my future. The pressure's like being thrust in the deep sea. It never lifts. Sometimes, my goal is simply getting home, and I barely make it.

Yet I keep churning out essays, reading Old English epics, and driving through awful construction. Every. Single. Day. Even when I want to pull my hair out, or worse: drop out.

We willingly sign away our freedom to schools and workplaces, but the nagging questions remain: what's our purpose, our niche to fill? And why do we bother sacrificing all this time and energy?

It's because we see our potential, and our hearts beat swan songs about how we deserve it. The possibilities dangle over our noses, teasing us through one semester to another, even if the finish line is cloudy.

In other words, if it hadn't been for your concerns and aspirations, you wouldn't be walking the halls of JJC. You wouldn't be showing up to class, doing your homework. The choices speak on your behalf to every teacher, every classmate. It's not only

brave, but independent.

The start of your freshman year may feel like entering the Tour de France when you've biked so few times. An endless pursuit. Not to mention: education is a privilege with a price. But academic nurturance outweighs all the empty pockets in the world.

Still, for some, college is scary. Stressful. Annoying. Confusing. You're not alone. It's a process, just like tying your shoes or driving a car. Yet it's ultimately shaped by your decisions, your preferences.

College will be as boring and dreadful or as fun and rewarding as you want. Help and resources are always there, but you need to ask. Spend a minute on this to save hours' worth of headaches later. Friendships, or even just people to engage in small-talk with, are conversations away. Beats staring at your iPhone until class starts.

The finish lines of most our lives are cloudy. We can only clear them with dedication and some courage. That's what counsellors are for. Again, I stress: help is all around you—a simple and cliché fact which I regret not realizing sooner.

On behalf of the writers and organizers of the JJC Blazer, and all the staff and faculty, I welcome you to JJC.

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charge of the vending machines at the main campus as well.

The financial loss of the cafeteria was too great to continue to stay open for another year. JJC was losing almost \$30,000 a semester, and it ended up being considered a huge loss to the college out of the mere 32 weeks of it being open.

"It was a financial decision based on current enrollment, and support from student and staff," Terry Pagoria, Joliet Junior College Food Service Manager of 14 years said. "We wanted to have some sort of food service there so the market is much like an extended version of vending."

The market has no investment, but the school will get commission. This will make sure there will not be another loss of funds that great.

The selection was put on hold over the course of a few weeks over the summer, and was not officially approved by the college board until their August meeting. The market was not open for student use until after the Labor Day holiday.

Instead of just using regular vending machines, the college decided to put in a new form of vending used called

"micromarket." The micromarket is much like a corner store, but it is also self-serve. Business experts predict this new form of vending will make over \$7 billion by the end of 2020.

The vendor has an option of supplying over 400 different items, but for now these options are not available. The market, at the moment, has packaged deli sandwiches, muffins, candy bars, fruit, sodas, milk, energy drinks, water, and coffee.

Since the market does not have cashiers, purchases at the market must be used with a card or the mobile app called Company Kitchen at the kiosk. Once the app is downloaded, cash can be used but change will be put into an account balance. While the app is scanned and in use, the user also most scan their fingerprint. The app is able to give discounts on certain food items, like 30% off a bag a chips, or buy one bag of chips and get one free. The app also shows your previous purchases.

A big perk to the market is the fact the market is open when campus is, which means that students are able to make purchases during weekend and night-time classes. At the main

campus, the cafeteria is closed by 6:30 p.m. on weekdays and 2 p.m. on Fridays.

Students and staff have different opinions on the change. One of the main complaints from students is that the market lacks the old options which used to be served. Students miss the opportunity to be able to have hot meals.

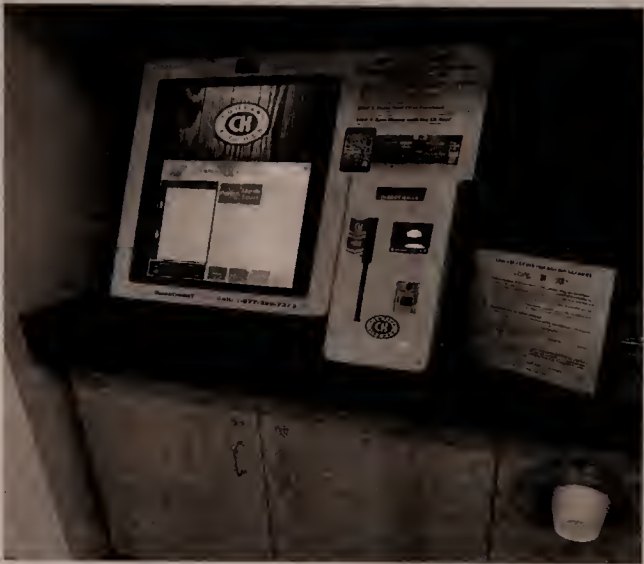
"I've heard different reactions. I've heard some that were upset because the cafeteria went away. Other students have adapted very well to it," Pagoria said.

Other students don't mind the change because of never used the cafeteria to begin with and some only used it for the microwaves, which are still in the same location.

Some students even like the quick pace environment over having an actual cafeteria.

"It's my freshman year, and I'm not really sure how it was like before, but I definitely come here when I saw it was open, and whenever I need a snack. And I'm normally on campus too so it's nice," said JJC Romeoville campus student, Ethan Spangenberg.

Although the old cafeteria is not in use anymore, the equipment



One of the market kiosks.

Photo by Meghan Blenck

is still in the same location. Pagoria hopes to one day see a regular cafeteria reopen at the Romeoville Campus. Right now, the equipment is hidden with the use of large dividers.

"I think the reason we did not put up drywall, and didn't remove any equipment is because the hope is that a couple years down the road enrollment will be up. The market could elose up and food services can reopen," Pagoria said.

The Romeoville Campus was open in 1993, and last year's spring enrollment reached 550 students along with 105 faculty and staff members.

Romeoville Campus had their cafe located in the campus's A building. The cafe featured pastries, deli sandwiches, grilled sandwiches, fries, pizza, candy, chips, salads, fruit cups, pop and other energy drinks, hand made smoothies and coffee.

PTK hosts Suicide Awareness event

By Meghan Blenck
Assistant Production Manager

Twelve students between ages 15-24 will commit suicide today. That's one for every two hours.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death of teens and young adults. The topic of suicide is sometimes still hushed, and for many hard to talk about, but needs to be brought to light.

That is what the officers of Joliet Junior Colleges Alpha Lambda Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa wanted to do with their completed project of their suicide memorial bench, now open and located in the picnic grove. They named the opening, "Darkness Into Light."

The idea and creation of the bench was brought up by members of the chapter in years past. Current members say the time was around five years ago.

They needed to talk to multiple people to get the idea approved. For this event to happen, the honors society needed to do many fundraisers and collaborate with many Joliet businesses.

"It's been a lot of sensitivity we had to touch on. Since this is a very sensitive topic and it isn't one that is made easy to talk about," said Chapter President Joseph Lyle. "Our goal in this project was to start breaking down the wall that divides us on talking about it."

Vice President and Head of Public Relations Kylie Jump was chosen to come up with the design because of her art and graphic design skills. She wanted to go

above just using the advice of "it will get better," and she dove into the idea of reaching out.

"I wanted to display reaching out, because sometimes the best thing is for people to reach out," Jump said.

Jump also admitted diving into this project was difficult because it made her think a lot of her past, but she said the success and seeing people come out to the event made it all worth it.

The actual mosque was made possible by Joliet artist Mike Zager. The 600-pound bench itself was made possible by Joliet's cement business Unit Step.

The event was held two times on Sept. 26 in the K building in the black box theatre. Each session had their own guest speakers.

The event at 2 p.m. featured JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell and counseling member Jan Quillman.

Councilwoman Jan Quillman has been serving Joliet resident's since 2005 and serves on the board of many community committees. On top of all that she is also a registered nurse at a local hospital.

The event at 5:30 p.m. had guest speakers Eric Papineau, Senator McGuire, and Kent Wade.

Papineau works Will County Veterans Assistance Commission, who spoke on half of veterans with PTSD. He started his speech with a heartfelt poem about a soldier dealing with the loss of his friends and the demons he deals with. Papineau himself is a veteran.

"For every veteran who has been through a traumatic event in service, mental health service is not a crutch, it should be seen as a standard as a check up," Papineau said.

McGuire, who has been serving the Joliet district for over six years, spoke next.

"The primary duty of elected officials first duty in government is to keep people alive. Whether if it's traffic accidents, suicide, gun violence, it's our duty to keep people alive. So I want to give you my word tonight, you let me know any bills that come before the Illinois general assembly that deal with suicide awareness or suicide awareness I'll sponsor

them," McGuire said.

The last speaker was Wade who is a public speaker and the 2016 winner for the 40 Under 40 Award. He talked about his own situation in his past life. He was born to a mother with a crack addiction, and dropped out of high school at the age of 17. He compared the life of plants and their use of photosynthesis to humans.

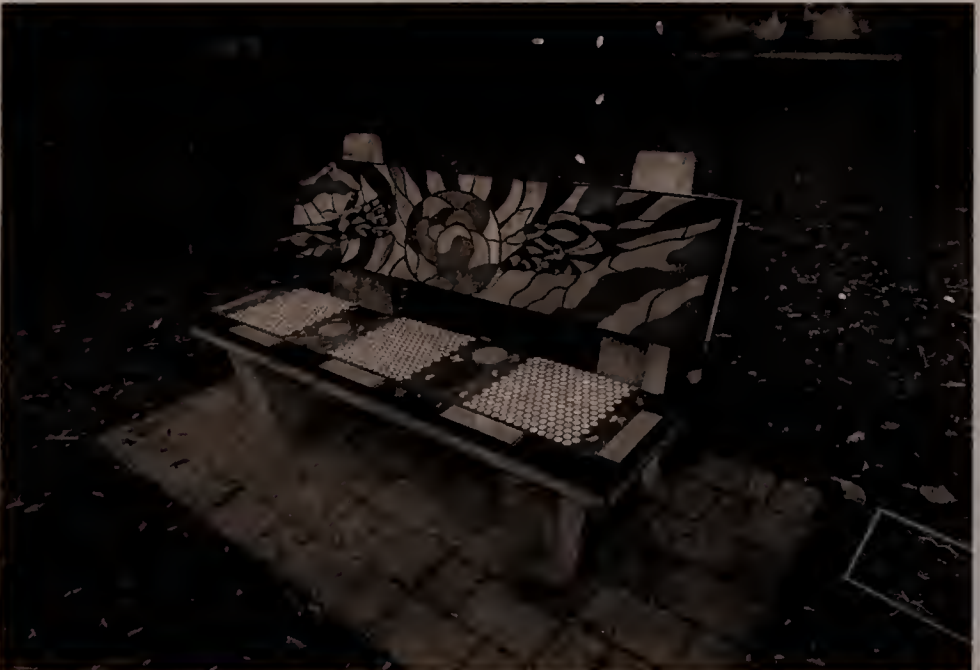
"I have to grow through what I went through to be the man I am today," Wade said. "The funny thing about flowers is that they endure some pretty hard things to bloom come spring. Us humans go through some pretty ugly things, but when we get to the end

of our story we get to bloom."

After the speakers, the group lead the walk down the bridge through the cafeteria to the picnic grove. The walk was a time of reflection.

The bench was then unveiled by the officers of Phi Theta Kappa, and advisor and English professor Mark Chen at 7 p.m. people lit candles in remembrance of loved ones who lost their lives to suicide.

Joliet Junior Colleges counseling department was also at the event open to talk to students and other members of the community about what they offer to help students in need in times of doubt.



The Sulcide Awareness Bench located by the picnic grove.

Photo by Meghan Blenck

Donating blood: A bloody good time

By Lauren Bulow

Copy Editor

Why do vampires consider themselves good artists? Because they like drawing blood!

There was a lot of blood being drawn on at JJC: over 100 pints total was collected on the bridge. And no, it was not the work of vampires!

It was, however, the result of a fundraiser for two of JJC's Clubs: Latinos Unidos and Press Pause, paired with the Red Cross. The drive took place on Oct. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and there were veins of people eager to donate! At the end of the drive, over a hundred pints of blood were donated!

Many people donate and volunteer for different reasons. Nathalia Chavez, a volunteer for Press Pause, donated her blood and time to raise awareness and funds for Press Pause.

For those who have not heard of the club, Chavez explains that Press Pause is a "...mental health advocacy group." Chavez went on to relate how the group spreads awareness around campus to break the stigma surrounding mental illness.

According to Chavez, "last year we hosted a fair where we had people come talk about what mental illness is and how it is actually an illness even though people don't see it that way. We also had the counseling department, people you can actually talk to or go to for help. Through the blood drive we get funds for our club so we can keep doing events and spreading awareness."

Another donor, Kaitlin Miller, says that she donates because she really likes to. "It started out with me and my dad doing it together as soon as I was able to and then I kept doing it because I get free stuff because I'm O negative, the universal donor." Since Miller's sophomore year of high school, she has donated blood almost every eight weeks.

"I like knowing that I can help all types of people. I find it rewarding. Donating blood is fun and you get free food."

The process of donating blood is very simple. First the donor sits with a nurse from the Red Cross and answer a series of questions that confirm that they are eligible to give blood. Then, they take a sample of the donor's blood by pricking their finger and testing the iron levels. Once that stage is complete the donor will wait their turn to have their blood drawn.

When it is their turn they will get on the cot and another nurse will check them in, take their blood pressure, and mark a vein. After finding a vein the nurse will stick them with the needle and take a pint of blood. The donor only feels a small pinch and their only job after that is to lightly squeeze a stress ball. Once the bag is filled, the needle is removed and a bandage is

placed on the vein.

The whole donating part only takes six to 12 minutes. After that, the donor is given orange juice and snacks. If a student does choose to donate, they should be sure to eat something beforehand so they don't pass out!

The blood donated will go to the American Red Cross, where the blood will be separated into transfusable components - red cells, platelets, and plasma - and then sent for testing. The Red Cross tests each unit to establish the blood type and to make sure there are no infectious diseases. Once the test results come back and the units are cleared, the red cells, platelets, and plasma are stored and ready for distribution.

There is always a need for blood. The Red Cross estimates that about every two seconds, someone in the United States is in dire need of blood. A single car accident victim may need as many as 100 pints of blood.

Sickle cell disease affects around 90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. these patients require frequent blood transfusions, three pints of blood per transfusion, throughout their lives. By donating to the Red Cross, you are able to save lives.

There are many opportunities to donate blood at JJC. There is another drive in February or you can find nearby drives on the American Red Cross website.



Press Pause member, Nathalia Chavez, donates blood at the Red Cross blood drive to support her club.

Photo by Lauren Bulow.

Hispanic and Latinx students celebrate heritage

By Stephania Rodriguez

Staff Writer

In case you weren't aware, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 was National Hispanic Heritage Month! In this special month, we observe the history, culture and contributions made by Hispanic and Latinx Americans.

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of this annual celebration. JJC went all out, hosting several recreational and educational events throughout the month.

Kicking off the celebration was a showing of the beloved movie "Coco." This movie tells the tale of little Miguel, an aspiring musician, whose generations of family have put a ban on music. Miguel is determined to prove he has talent, and finds himself in the Land of the Dead, where he will meet friends and family and learn about the real story of his family's history.

Its vibrant, vivid animations and skeletal figures bring recognition to Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a beautiful and sacred holiday in which we remember and honor the lives of the deceased. The film has become very popular not just among Latinx, but among other cultures too. Since its release, odds are you may have heard someone singing the famous tune

of "Remember Me."

"A Celebration of Latino Heroes and Sheroes" was also a featured event. Members of the Latinos Unidos club got the chance to dress up and host a poster and attire exhibit of some of the many prominent Latin figures throughout history and educate the curious passerby students.

In front of the stars stood decorative posters with pictures and interesting facts about their lives. In attendance was artist Frida Kahlo, revolutionist Che Guevara, Aztec princess La Malinche, and photographer Lola Alvarez Bravo!

Wrapping up the celebration was a showing of the "Sin Pais (Without a Country)" documentary. This short film brings light to a real and controversial topic we face today: immigration. In attempt to steer away and look beyond the partisan politics and the mainstream media, the difficult journey of immigration to deportation of the Mejia family is explored.

The Guatemalan family brought their infant son to California for a better life, later giving birth to two more children who were born U.S. citizens. At the end of the film, we watch the family anxiously await their separation after the invasion of their home by two immigration agents.

Other events included Latinx



Photo courtesy of Stephania Rodriguez

JJC students pose with "historical figures."

Jeopardy, where students got to show off what they know and learn more about culture and history. Choque de Lenguas (Crashing of Tongues) gave students a lesson on the integration and growth of the Spanish language after the Europeans arrived in the Americas. Students were also invited to practice and show off their spanish-speaking skills in Learning Conversational Spanish.

National Hispanic Heritage Month originally started as a one week celebration in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson. The month-long celebration was later initiated and set into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Since then, the United States has seen a significant increase in its Hispanic/Latinx population.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the

starting date because it is the Independence Day of Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico also celebrates its own Independence Day on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18.

The reality is, our Latinx community has been under attack and discriminated against for the past couple of years. Hispanic Heritage Month gives the community a voice and a whole month to show off their pride.

The Hispanic/Latinx community is very grateful that JJC allowed for the hosting of these events and gave recognition to the month. Great job to all the students who participated and made this possible! Keep it up JJC!

The never-ending election season

By Adrien David

Copy Editor

The gubernatorial election is here: everyone has seen the ad campaigns. Many JJC students have even seen people at desks by the Main Cafeteria telling everyone to register to vote.

For those that are unaware of the upcoming gubernatorial election, here is what you need to know about the candidates for governor.

Four candidates are still in the running for governor, among them are: Republican incumbent Gov. Bruce Rauner, Democrat J.B. Pritzker, Libertarian Grayson "Kash" Jackson, and Conservative Sam McCann. With Pritzker and Rauner being of the most prominent parties in this election, and that they are both billionaires whose campaigns are primarily self-funded, they have the most publicity as of late.

Many families rely on the public education system to help their children learn and grow as they get older. As with any election many of the candidates have thoughts and plans on how to improve the education system as a whole so that all children, regardless of family income, get a quality education.

Jackson says that his plan is to fund public schools by local taxpayers, through property taxes and private donations that can be credited on state income tax. He believes that each district should establish whether or not to have extracurricular activities and if so, they should be funded in the same way. He believes that students learn in different ways and it is important to create a versatile learning environment.

Pritzker wants to change the kindergarten age from six to five. He believes that this will benefit the children's "cognitive, social, and emotional" skills. He plans to "increase the state's investment in the Early Childhood Block Grant" as doing this would benefit thousands more children annually and will also help train teachers which will allow for an improved educational experience for young kids.

Rauner's website does not discuss his plans for improving our education system but rather what has been done since he took office in 2015. His website states that funding for public education in our state has increased by \$1.2 billion for kids in kindergarten through grade 12 during his candidacy.

McCann does not discuss on his website his plans for educational reform. He does however, discuss his views on abortion, stating that he is "100% Pro-Life," and his goal is to overturn HB 40 with the intention of to saving the lives of the innocent and saving taxpayers money.

HB 40 is a bill that was signed by Gov. Rauner back in Sept. 2017, which removed exclusions in public health-benefits that related to induced miscarriages, abortions, or premature births.

It is an amendment to the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 and removes the former ruling that an unborn is considered a person from the time of conception and therefore has a right to life.

Jackson states that he values the lives of everyone, including unborn children. He acknowledges that this is a very controversial topic and has a desire to bring Pro-Life and Pro-Choice people together to find a common ground. His approach on the subject is to help the women by addressing what he calls the "underlying contributing causes that encourage women to choose abortion," and resolving them to the best of his power so that abortion becomes a last resort.

Pritzker discusses his passion for women's rights by stating that he backed Rauner's signing of HB 40 and has fought for these causes for decades. He believes in a woman's right to choose and have equal pay.

While there are many issues in Illinois, one of the most prominent and controversial topics regards immigration and border control. McCann states that his first priority is to revoke Rauner's sanctuary state bill. According to McCann's website he believes that Illinois needs to return to a "downstate, common sense approach to governing" and that he is the one to guide Illinois down the right path.

One of Pritzker's priorities is to protect immigrant families by fighting for a "permanent, legislative solution for DACA recipients to stay in this country," and his goal is to make Illinois into a welcoming community to immigrant families. He states that he will "prohibit any Illinois participation in any federal registry program based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, or religion."

Both Jackson and Rauner focus on jobs, taxes, and reform of our criminal justice system. Neither candidate's website specify any plans regarding immigration. As previously stated however, Rauner has passed a bill that makes Illinois a sanctuary state.

Regardless of who you vote for, it is your right vote. In 1870, non-white males were given the right to vote and 50 years later women were granted that same right. Generations of Americans have fought for this right and for this freedom. In an imperfect world and an imperfect nation, voting can make a difference.

The Illinois Gubernatorial Election is on Nov. 6, 2018. Vote and make a difference!

Police blotter

Traffic accident

An Illinois State Citation was issued to Stephanie M. Morris on Sept. 29 for failing to slow down in traffic to avoid an accident. An Illinois Crash Report was completed for Morris and the driver of the other vehicle. Morris struck the driver as she was driving out of a parking space. Both drivers had injuries to their vehicles, and no injuries were reported.

Residential burglary in Centennial Commons

In apartment #113 at Centennial Commons, two male roommates were interviewed regarding a burglary at their apartment on Sept. 18.

The two basketball players reported that after they returned from basketball practice, they noticed that two PlayStation consoles, nine games and five controllers were missing. Neither roommate was able to provide serial numbers for the consoles.

Battery and assault at Centennial Commons

While investigating another incident near Centennial Commons, Police received information of a possible assault and battery. Two males said that a female resident of the Commons was assaulted and beat up by several unknown offenders.

The female victim informed police that while leaving her apartment a male and female ran from another building and attacked her.

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Stem fair motivates tech careers

By Krysta Moyes

Staff Writer

JJC's STEM fair showcases the need for students to go into STEM careers and the opportunities students have here at JJC.

Vendors prepare for the influx of students to come through the door who are curious to learn what these companies have to offer.

The Lockport Porters Robotics club sets up their robot to demonstrate to students while JJC's architecture, engineering, and construction program sets out a box of Legos, wooden blocks, and models for students to play with.

The Morton Arboretum attended with different animal furs, skulls, and tree slices that students could look at under a microscope attachment that works with an Apple iPad.

The room is filled with anticipation as people wait to hear Congressman Bill Foster speak.

Foster is a scientist who started his own company with his brother which now manufactures over 70% of theatre stage lighting.

According to Foster, "STEM jobs have doubled faster than other jobs in recent years." STEM jobs are becoming more commonplace as technology continues to advance.

Argonne National Laboratory's employees are currently researching hydrogen fuel cell particles and using them to power automobiles. This research could lead to cars not releasing emissions and pollutants into the air.

With the current president not believing in climate change, research on lessening emissions and pollutants is very important.

BP America was there with a virtual reality simulation of how they drill for oil and information on STEM-related careers with the company. The virtual reality video was an interesting experience that definitely informed students.

Aurora University introduced information on STEM-related majors including a bachelor's degree in Human Animal Studies. It's often believed that STEM only includes science, math and computer science degrees, but that is not the case at all. STEM majors have the capability to be extremely broad.

JJC's MakerLab was a personal favorite. Touring the MakerLab was impressive; that type of technology was impressive and it was amazing that it was available at JJC.

JJC's MakerLab was opened in 2016 but had been closed since Dec. 2017 because the previous individual in charge left according to Debra Daun, MakerLab assistant at JJC.

A MakerLab is a space where students can use 3D printers, laser cutters, and a vinyl cutter. Students are encouraged to come in and use the lab at their

leisure to print projects. While touring the MakerLab, various projects were laying around the lab some of which included the Eiffel Tower, a Yoda figurine, and 3D-printed slugs.

The MakerLab has classes that students can take to learn more about 3D printing and laser camps. Classes are also offered for kids through JJC's Kids' College to get them interested in STEM and 3D printing. Students at JJC should take advantage of the MakerLab whenever possible.

When speaking to Hillary Denk, who works for Congressman Foster, said that she believes all schools should have a MakerLab and they shouldn't be constrained because of funding.

Technology today is amazing because there are so many things to be accomplished with 3D printing. The medical field is an example of having the ability to be greatly revolutionized with 3D printing. Researchers could 3D print patients' prosthetic limbs and so much more.

During the fair, driving the Lockport Porter's robot and instructing it to pick up a ball was a great experience. Building a robot like the Porters' takes extensive knowledge of mechanical engineering, physics, math, and programming skills, all of which can be useful when applying for jobs.

JJC also had booths concerning architecture, engineering and

construction which all featured a model of the Washington monument, Legos building, and just learning about the classes offered to students.

One of those classes is ART 223 or History of Art in Architecture. This class can appeal to multiple students such as History majors, Art majors, and Architecture majors.

STEM crosses over into so many different aspects. Many jobs today are STEM-related due to technology rapidly evolving in the last decade. Science, technology, engineering, and math have become a major part of school curriculum all over the country.

In the past decade, technology

has evolved rapidly. 3D printing, MakerLabs, laser cutting, and more give people access to technologies that they previously would not be able to use. JJC's STEM fair highlighted some of these technologies and opportunities that students have here at JJC and other surrounding colleges in the area.

STEM careers have doubled faster than any other job sector and that trend will continue the more that technology develops. The need for skilled workers will continue to grow as well.

Students need to be aware of the opportunities and support that is offered to them in order to gain the experience needed for future careers in the STEM field.



Photo by Clinton Garwood

Emilio Rodriguez, Congressman Bill Foster, Sean O'Dell, John Rigoni, and Dr. Patrick Mills. Members of the NSCI research team with Foster.

Mentors from page 1

physics of musical instruments, Morrison was not inept in the face of the challenge of attempting to explain how acoustic vibrations effect the overall sound of the instrument based on the kind of material the medium consists of.

As an undergraduate he worked on a project that determined if sound in a vibrating trombone bell is determined by the distinguished vibrations of air circulation ricocheted within different materials.

Currently at Joliet Junior College, he started a project for student to study the design of handmade Caribbean Steel Pan drums, and how the distinct shape of the notes pivot the vibration of the sound to create new tones of frequency.

Out of the 10 years it took to get "The Science of Sound, Volume I" published, Morrison dedicated five into making sure Bennett's message was properly delivered to appeal to both musicians and scientists alike.

The book itself is compacted with the history of science in music and musical instruments. It covers how we could use the research to better understand how sound works.

The late Bennett Jr.'s life work was intended to incorporate a book that illustrated the science of making instruments and the sounds they produce stemmed from the many lectures he gave at Yale University throughout his 38 years as a physics professor. There, he spent his time educating a diverse audience of musicians and scientists, all in the same classroom.

The idea was to showcase the science that goes into making the sound produced by a large range of acoustic stringed instruments, pipe organs, and the study of human voice. The book covers the oscillation, waves and the analysis techniques necessary for understanding the full aspect of how reverberations behave in a resonant environment.

As for the author, a wide appreciation for the Liberal Arts showed his interest in culture and bringing the world of science and art closer together as one single entity.

Bennett Jr is widely known for his pioneering work on gas lasers: he was the co-inventor of the Helium-Neon Laser at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey. Aside from his pioneering in physics, Bennett's expertise spanned the domain of sound implications and music.

Bennett also played the clarinet and piano with the caliber of a professional, so he was no beginner on how instruments resonate.

Previously under the wing of Professor Bennett, doctoral graduate Christy K. Holland wrote a forward to honor the late author and physicist for his astounding work is musical sound and teaching to many graduates at Yale University, who wished for this book to be published so that

his story could be heard, and his vision to explore the sequence behind how sound is produced, perceived, and interpreted would be recognized for its significance in building a foundation for future musicians and scientist to increase their perception of music.

The overall intention of the style in which the science and math are presented are aimed to expand the knowledge of sound in the simplest way possible; just enough detail so that a sophomore in high school with a basic knowledge of physics or above could comprehend it.

Volume two by Andrew C. H. Morrison, with an early entree by William Ralph Bennett Jr, is expected to be released sometime in 2019. To sum the book up, the message is clear and the vision of "sound science" is limitless.

(†) William Ralph Bennett Jr -Deceased 29 June 2008

Student from page 1

each group of students getting 15 minutes to solve the puzzles.

"I thought it would just be some mediocre escape room, and I wasn't expecting much but I walked into it and was like wow. It's all automated, and you have to actually try to solve puzzles to get this," Farooq Syed, student representative, said.

Tuesday's event was a classic favorite. It was called "Express Your Stress," and featured painting on canvases and pumpkins. The numbers predict over 100 students came to that days events. Student government also gave away free cotton candy

at the event.

"They were having a ball out there painting pumpkins and canvases, and just chilling. It was great," Pam Dilday, group advisor, said.

Wednesday wrapped up the week with "Play Away Your Stress," which featured people playing video games, bean bags, and hillbilly golf. This was the least participated event of the week because of the change of location. Free popcorn with a variety of seasonings were handed out at the event.

"The other days location was much more centralized compared to down here," Josh Hancock, secretary, said.

Dilday says this year's success really came down to how hard the students worked. Weeks before the event they were promoting and preparing.

"They are a great group this year. I am super impressed with them. When they say they are going to be there they follow through," Dilday said. "They are promoting things, talking to students, inviting them to student government. I'm just overall impressed."



Isabella Lobner, Alonso Rodriguez, Malcohm Frenzel and Cesar Castillo participating in the events during stress relief week. Photo by Jessica Mack

AI in the sky

By Cadarrius Banks

Staff Writer

A presentation by Brian Nord, astrophysicist from Fermilab, took place on Sept. 18, located in room D-2001 on JJC's Main Campus.

The purpose of Nord's appearance at Joliet Junior College was to promote the evolution of artificial intelligence, as well as explain the importance of entering a STEM field in today's ever-growing society. He shared the endeavors he endured on his journey through the struggles and obstacles that lead him to where he is today.

Nord's only personal use of AI was for cataloging and classifying his Astrophysics research, but he was still an expert in AI coding. When asked why we needed AI, he proclaimed that, "AI is trained to identify and catalog objects trillions of times faster than humans and on a much larger scale."

This inspired a spark of many new questions about the "Terminator" and robotic world domination. When asked if AI could be dangerous, he stated that "Our only concern with artificial intelligence is the human behind the machine."

In the STEM field, there is a fear that the person creating the AI might incorporate their own personal bias beliefs into the AI programming. On a positive note, he explained the positive effects of having AI and how it was used to out-master the world renowned chess grandmaster.

It may have taken a while, but it was soon able to copy and learn from the top chess players it competed against until it was finally ready to go after the grandmaster.

With only four hours from learning chess, the AI robot named AlphaZero was able to beat the grandmaster with new moves never before seen with the entire 1500 year history of chess.

Although the event was little over two hours, it was worth the learning experience.

The host of the event, Andrew Morrison, provided light refreshments that ranged from Oreo cookies to a cheese and cracker delight. The event was free and open to the public and was the first lecture of the STEM Scholar Colloquium Series.

The event was bustling with a multitude of science fanatics and computer whizzes consisting of a collective of professors and students of Joliet who came to expand their knowledge of the applications of artificial intelligence from a well-known lab, such as Fermi.

Fermilab is a particle physics and accelerator laboratory based in Batavia, IL, which specializes in matter, energy, space, and time.

Throughout the presentation many questions were asked and answered on how AI will affect us in the future, in addition to concerns of computers thirsting for world domination. Brian ensured that "There is a kind of hierarchy in AI intelligence," but not to be concerned about this at the moment. He asked for a show of hands for any attendee that may have used AI before.

With a majority of the hands down, he wowed the crowd stating that if you use a smart phone, Google, Netflix, etc. then you have used AI programming before. Many stayed after the presentation to ask further questions, even professors had an intake on the matter.

One student in particular named Sean Brinkman asked how he could be more involved in the rise of AI and Brain answered with an astonishing, "I can tell you're a bright student who seem to be already on the right path. Just keep asking questions and searching for the answers."

The STEM Scholar Colloquium Series is off to a great start with many students anticipating the next guest speaker.



Astrophysicist Brian Nord speaks about artificial intelligence on Sept. 18. Photo by Cadarrius Banks

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AU

Bath design cleans up for award

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

This year, JJC's Interior Design program won an Excellence in Education from the six available from the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) out of roughly 300 entries.

The NKBA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting professionalism in the kitchen and bath industry, and has since expanded into an association of designers, retailers, remodelers, manufacturers, distributors, fabricators, installers and other industry professionals.

The design program is accredited by the NKBA, and each year they submit two student samples for review by the association. This year, Jenny Weidenaar and Tyler Rodgers were the two lucky students to be submitted and recognized.

Interior Design Associate Professor Oksana Alfredson says that as part of the accreditation requirements, she has to submit two students projects for NKBA to evaluate and stay within the professional requirements.

"In order to get recognition in the Educational Excellency, students' works have to be graded against 100 requirements and earn at least 90 points. Two submitted projects of the students' works were graded with a 96.5 and 94 points [respectively]."

Warren County Habitat for Humanity participated as being the real project and was assigned to all schools accredited by NKBA. This year, the assignment was to submit and

present a kitchen or bath design for a Habitat for Humanity home.

Alfredson said the main challenge was a tiny budget. "Students had to design a kitchen with only \$16,000 and a bathroom with \$4,000."

The project was assigned to all students of the INTD 233 Advanced Kitchen and Bath class. Students must be knowledgeable of kitchen and bath designs, materials, finishes, lighting and budgeting, "but [must be able to] apply AutoCAD and AutoCAD Architecture skills for drafting and 3D rendering," says Alfredson.

She also says that students work extremely hard since this project counts towards their grade

as well as their future portfolios.

The JJC Interior Design program won their first Excellence in Education from NKBA in 2014.

The same project was assigned for the NKBA Annual Students Design Competition as well, which is a different venture compared to Excellence in Education.

The JJC Interior Design Program has been a member of the NKBA since 2008 and have been fully accredited since 2009. It is a broad-based program allowing students planning to work in design to gain the necessary academic skills in order to continue later on past an associates level.

It offers multiple options for a career in designing, such as residential designing, contract designing and office planning, which are the main options students have available to them.

According to the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ), interior design is the art and science of understanding people's behaviors and fashions in order to create functional space. Interior designers must be able to analyze the clients needs and goals and even life safety requirements.

The Interior Design program offered at JJC offers multiple options for a career in designing. Residential designing, contract designing and office planning are

the main options students have available to them.

They apply creative and realistic solutions within a space that are attractive, functional and useful to the client and their wellbeing. Designers are required to be licensed or registered and have their education and training documented.

This program is for people who are interested in interior design work: kitchen and bath design, contract work, real estate consultation, home accessorizing and so much more.

If students have an artistic eye, maybe the Interior Design program is a path to investigate.

Alfredson says they will try again next spring to win again.



Jenny Weidenaar bathroom design submitted for judging.

Photo courtesy of Oksana Alfredson

JJC welcomes returning and new clubs to campus

By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. This Oct. 3 marked the latest Collegiate Club Council Meeting, which is held every October and February in order to determine what clubs will be chartered or re-chartered.

Most clubs from previous years have been re-chartered and will be active and open to JJC students once more, such as the Interior Design Club, Wolf Pack Productions Video Club, the Psychology Club, and more. Additionally, some clubs have recently undergone change or have returned to JJC.

The Catholic Campus Ministry is one club that has returned to JJC after the last few years. They meet on Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. in D-1010. Their advisor is Elizabeth Petree and could not be reached for comment.

The First Responders Club is a combination of the school's previous Criminal Justice Club

and new aspects such as EMT services and the fire department. Since broadening their horizons, the First Responders Club and advisors Edward Vasil and Antione Edwards have worked to recruit students interested in becoming a first responder, including "police, firefighters, nurses, medical, investigators, etc.," according to Mr. Vasil, who also stated that all students are welcome to attend the events, even those who are not in a first responder degree program.

From a statement given by co-advisor Edwards, it "gives students the opportunity to meet current Criminal Justice, Fire/EMS professionals, faculty members, and other students who share common interests and goals," and "participates in many community service and campus wide special events," while also working with campus police to promote the Illinois Special Olympics. Much like the AIGA student group, the club hosts guest speakers and will incorporate hands-on experience in specific career fields. The organization's

first meeting was on Oct. 12, and they will continue to meet every Friday from 12-1 p.m. in C-1043, the Veteran's Resource Center.

The Veggie Club, formerly known as the Vegan-F Club, has seen a complete revamp since its confirmation earlier this month. In addition to a change in name, it is also under new leadership with Abby Avila taking over from advisor Linda Elaine. Ms. Avila could not be reached for a statement on the Veggie Club's new visions, but according to Collegiate Club Council advisor Amy Sims, the club hopes "to look at many aspects of nutrition and the veterinarian lifestyles."

And of course, JJC has also introduced several brand new clubs this year. The AIGA Student Group is one club that is new to campus life and according to advisor Chuck Gniech, "offers extracurricular speaker events" that introduce students to "professionals [such as designers, illustrators, creative directors, etc.] in the graphic design industry."

AIGA, or the American

Institute of Graphic Arts, is the industry's "oldest and largest... organization for design" and appeals to those looking for a full-time career in graphic design, giving them first-hand experience by means of guest speakers and specific aspects of the craft. Meetings featuring guest speakers are held on Wednesday evenings from 5-6 p.m. once a month, with regular meetings scheduled two weeks after each speaker event in K-2001.

The CompTech Club is another extracurricular in the technical department designed for students with CIOS interests. According to Amy Sims, they are "eager" to recruit students to build and promote their club. The CIOS club's primary goal is to "provide an environment for students interested in all fields of CIOS that promotes discussion, learning opportunities, networking, and collaboration," as stated in their promotional release. Their advisor is Pam Dunn, who is the department chair of Computer Info & Office Systems and is also heavily involved in other CIOS-

related clubs.

Another brand-new organization open to JJC students is the College Republicans. Once again according to Student Activities coordinator Ms. Sims, the club members encourage open dialogue and seek to educate themselves on political issues. It is under advisor Ben Bierly and open to all students.

While this club was actually chartered in 2017, Practicing Mindfulness is yet another fresh extracurricular activity open to all students. As explained in their promotional release, they seek to "introduce and expand awareness of mindfulness practices," such as meditation. The club meets on Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m., with an activity taking place during the second half of the meeting; its advisors are natural science and physical education professor David Opon and tutor Deborah Kroeger.

All of these advisors can be reached through email, and if any student is looking for a new club to join, they can visit the Office of Student Activities in D-1010.

'Angels in America: Millennium Approaches'

By Sara Barbour

Staff Writer

"Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" is a moving play that discusses homosexuality and AIDS in the 80s from a very complex and sometimes introspective viewpoint. The story is set around both physical and metaphysical characters and gives us an amazing look into self-doubt and how we perceive reality.

The Director of "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" is Clay Kirkland. With over 20 years of experience as both a teacher and director of around 30 plays here at Joliet Junior College, Kirkland brings an unobjectionable experience and reality to the moving story "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches," which is part one in this series.

"Angels in America: Perestroika," part two in this series, will be presented in the spring and will also be directed by Kirkland.

Kirkland says that "'Angels in America: Millennium Approaches' is a play of ideas more than action. I think that it will appeal to people who are

intellectual and are interested in political and social issues."

He added, "Angels also has a compelling storyline and complex, very human characters, which most theatre-goers can appreciate." Some of the biggest challenges for the cast as well as the director has been the script itself.

Kirkland said 25 years ago he saw the original Broadway production of "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches," and it was why he chose this play at this time. "It remains among the most memorable, powerful shows I have seen in more than four decades of theatre-going. I have always wanted to direct this show, and with the success of the recent Broadway revival and this being my penultimate year as a JJC faculty member, now seemed like a good time."

Indeed, it is a good time – at least to do this show. Despite its age, it is just as relevant as when it debuted in 1993. Change a few names, and the characters could easily be discussing today's political figures; the economic and cultural rhetoric belongs as much to 2018 as to the late 20th Century. And of course, its

examination of the nature of life and love is timeless.

With all shows there are struggles bringing a script to life. Kathy Quezada who plays The Angel, Ella, and the Homeless woman, stated that "A couple of the largest difficulties to the show has been the sheer number of lines for memorization and the difficulty in learning some of the lines in Hebrew."

Quezada, who was also in "She Kills Monsters," performed last year at JJC, went on to say, "Even though I play multiple characters within the same show there will be no confusion for the audience because I am working on making every character different, not only in costuming but also in voice inflection and demeanor."

Cris Moreno, who plays Belize and Mr. Lies stated that the main problem he has encountered with the play is the fact that he is playing a homosexual character. "As a heterosexual man I have been having a little difficulty understanding how to connect with some of those experiences within the subject matter."

Kirkland also stated, "I find myself having to explain a lot of cultural references in the script. It can be challenging coaching

actors playing characters that are so foreign to their own life experiences."

With a show like this, it is Kirkland's goal is to get the audience thinking. "I hope they will be discussing the overall quality of the production and connecting the ideas and issues in the script to today's cultural climate," said the director.

He went on to say he hoped people would be surprised by [the show and] "Its candor; it is an unblinking, gritty look at life in the US in the late 20th century [and unfortunately, also at life in the US in 2018]."

The play is a longer show with a run time of 3 1/2 hours. This is not a show that is child friendly so, at least for this program, so you may consider leaving the kids at home. The play has a medium cast at 10 actors

JJC's theatre program is known for its spectacular performance and "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" will be no exception. If you didn't get a chance to see the performances on Oct. 4-6 or Oct. 7, come to one of the others this upcoming season.

Upcoming JJC Productions

"UNNECESSARY FARCE"
Nov. 15-18

"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR MUSIC"
FEB. 21-24

"ANGELS IN AMERICA, PART TWO: PERESTROIKA"
MARCH 4-10

"ALL MY SONS"
APRIL 9-14

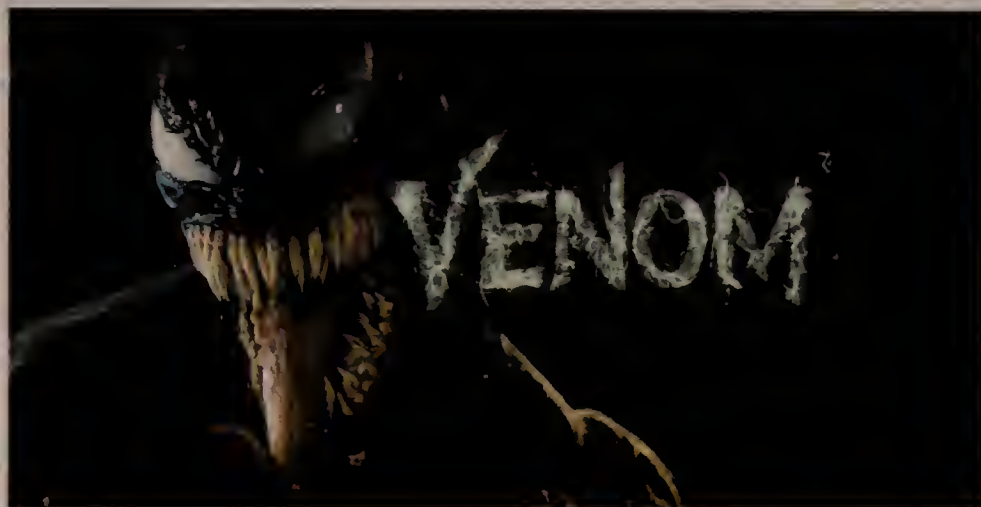


Photo courtesy of flickeringmyth.com

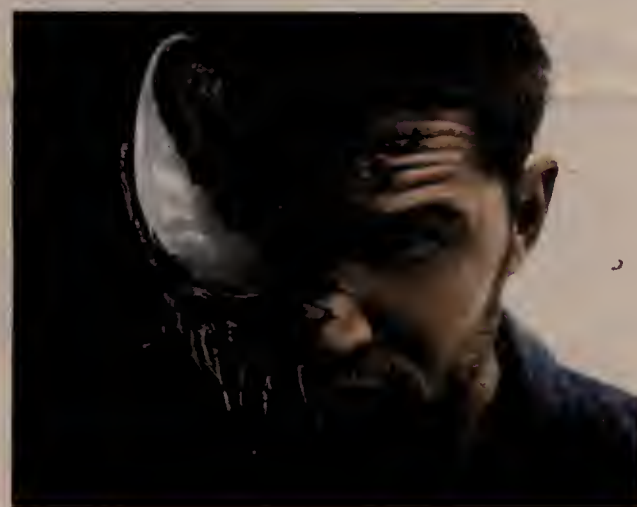


Photo courtesy of imdb.com

Opening weekend soars; Venom disappoints

By Tyler Drag

Staff Writer

"Venom" disappoints fans with a lack of direction, awkward camera angles, and a failure of a villain.

"Venom," directed by Ruben Fleischer and starring Tom Hardy, came out Oct. 5. This is another one of Sony's Marvel movies but it has no ties to the MCU, including Spider-Man or the Avengers. Rip that band-aid off now, Tom Holland is not in this movie. While "Venom" didn't have as many faces as we are accustomed to seeing with "The Avengers" and "X-Men," movies it did show us some really interesting chemistry between Tom Hardy as Eddie Brock and the symbiote Venom. The movie shattered expectations by taking in \$80 million from the opening weekend in North America alone,

but it has its ups and downs.

Although it destroyed the October record of an opening weekend by about \$20 million, (the former record was held by the movie "Gravity" with \$55 million opening weekend), "Venom" has some disappointing features.

The movie's pace is rather flat and lacks strong direction for where it's going. I was steadily disappointed through the first third of the movie. It heavily suffers from being another origin story. There have been so many comic book movies since they became mainstream, and this one hardly feels original. This movie could have been much more thought provoking and creative but instead it feels like a watered-down origin story.

Even some of the camera angles seem to be off or shot in an unappealing frame on purpose. This movie does not have much

sense of creativity besides what it has taken from its source material.

"Venom's" direction overall is weak and with bland dialogue. While watching the movie, I became less interested because of the actors they chose.

Riz Ahmed, who played Bhodhi Rook in "Rogue One," also plays the villain in this movie. Although I was happy that we didn't have another villain with a British accent, Riz was not a very interesting villain.

They did little to build his character and he plays the role as more of a spoiled CEO than a villain. His character is not intimidating in the least. I couldn't help but think during the movie that he should have been cast as one of the scientists, not the villain. While there were some disappointing choices in actors, Hardy completely destroyed his role as Eddie Brock.

Brock is a failure in the comics

originally. This is also the case in the movie, but when the Venom symbiote comes into play then the movie really takes off, just like in the comics. The chemistry between Brock and Venom is one of the few enjoyable features about this movie.

Together the characters grow and they begin to work as a pair. They also provide a lot of comic relief which was really entertaining considering their situation.

Todd McFarlane first drew Venom as a complete opposite to Spider-Man in the comics. He is massive and also has the now iconic tongue and teeth with white eyes. Just like it does in the comics, the actual Venom suit is very overwhelming.

Many CGI mistakes were made (don't forget about the "Justice League" mustache fail), but the Venom suit is not

one of these mistakes. The suit itself is missing its white spider logo along the chest because there is no Spider-Man in this universe but it doesn't even matter. Instead there are slight veins throughout the suit and it has its own original look while capitalizing on the trademark tongue and teeth. Venom looks like a complete beast in this movie and acts like it too. If only this movie had the proper rating.

"Venom" should have been rated R. One of the most disappointing things about this movie is that it is only rated PG-13. The movie clearly suffers from this.

It is disappointing and annoying when Venom talks about eating someone's head only for the camera to cut away to someone's reaction. Violence and anarchy are some of the interesting themes throughout this movie but the rating holds it back.

Alice in Chains' 'Rainier Fog': A powerful Seattle tribute

By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

Grunge is not dead. At least, not as long as Alice in Chains is still around.

Being one of the last of the "Big Four" grunge bands left and one of the first to arrive on the scene back in the early 1990s, nothing seems to be stopping them. With their latest album in five years, released in late August and following 2013's "The Devil Put Dinosaurs Here," Alice in Chains certainly haven't forgotten their roots, either.

Named after Seattle's landmark, Mt. Rainier, the album encapsulates the legacy that the grunge scene created - and the tragedies that it suffered. Similar to a select few of their previous albums but in no way repeating what they've already said, "Rainier Fog" takes you on a heavy ride from which you still feel the effects even after the final track has long since ended. For fans, it was definitely worth the wait.

For those not as familiar with the band, Alice in Chains is one of four popular Seattle grunge bands and first rose to prominence in the early 1990s with their hit single, "Man in the Box," from their debut album, "Facelift." However, they

weren't considered mainstream successes until late 1992 when they released their sophomore record, "Dirt," an album delving into darker subjects, such as drug addiction and depression, compared to its predecessor.

Their impact echoed throughout the rest of the 1990s; in 1994, they released the seven-track, mostly acoustic EP "Jar of Flies," which was the first EP to ever top the Billboard charts, a feat that would not be accomplished again until 10 years later. Their 1995 self-titled third album would also see similar success.

Sadly, the band's worldwide fame would subsequently be put to a halt by 1996, as vocalist Layne Staley's heroin addiction would worsen and result in his death in 2002. Despite Staley's short-lived success and the band's greatest loss, their legacy was never forgotten. When they reunited in 2005 with singer William DuVall, fans welcomed them back with open arms. Now, in 2018, their long-awaited new album has received similar enthusiasm.

The band announced their return to music in early May this year, releasing their first new single, "The One You Know," shortly after kicking off their North American tour.

As the first track on the album, it's a powerful, unrelenting hard rock song, mixing their classic heavy bluesy sound with a sludge metal sound that they have become known for since their aforementioned breakout album, "Dirt." And as someone who knows from personal experience, it sounds just as good live.

It's the perfect start to an album that has even more tricks up its sleeve. The perhaps more underrated tracks follow on the single's heels, with the lyrically haunting and equally heavy title track. Written by guitarist and primary songwriter, Jerry Cantrell, "Rainier Fog" serves as the epitome of the scene for which the band has become a household name. It pays tribute to the decade of their prime and the ones who are no longer with them through the line, "With you here we shared a space that's always half empty."

The following track, "Red Giant," may not be as lyrically impactful, but it offers the same energy and hard-hitting riffs. Next, the band refers to their acoustic roots with "Fly" which is reminiscent of similar acoustic songs from "Black Gives Way to Blue," their first album with DuVall.

The album continues with heavy riffs and sludgy tone

through "Drone" and "Deaf Ears Blind Eyes" before slowing back down with another acoustic ballad, "Maybe," borrowing from their 1992 hit, "Down in a Hole." While every single track is equally important in this album, it's not until we get to the second single, "So Far Under," that we get back to the meat of the matter.

This and the penultimate "Never Fade," both written by vocalist DuVall, offer something new. These songs saw more of DuVall's potential as a songwriter, which until now was not as present within the band, as that task usually belonged to guitarist Cantrell.

While "So Far Under" is just as gloomy and bleak lyrically as it is instrumentally it certainly captures your interest, "Never Fade" is not only equally captivating but also much more intimate and consequently a fan favorite. With each band member able to shine, specifically referencing that hard-to-miss bass line, the song is hard-hitting in both its instrumentation and its lyrics, as DuVall repeatedly croons, "You're never far away, I always see you / And when it all goes dark, you light my way through."

DuVall's lyrics are similar to that of Cantrell's "Rainier Fog,"

once again remembering those that the band had lost, including friend of the band and another legendary grunge musician Chris Cornell, who died in May 2017, original lead singer Staley and DuVall's late grandmother. As a result, the album starts the same way it ends: as a retrospective to what has haunted the band and is equally haunting to fans alike.

The final track, "All I Am," contains acoustic elements as well and is yet another memorable song, not just for its melody but also for its chilling lyrics. As a much more personal song, we can only assume what the song is about, but that does not stop it from reaching deep within our core in such a way that very few bands can ever do.

Even if listeners are not a fan of grunge music and are unaware of the history, they may still find what they're looking for in "Rainier Fog" as a hard rock album. The band has never failed to attract old and new listeners, and this album is no different.

This record serves as a somber yet powerful reflection of years that some of us have not experienced combined with a sliver of hope for the future and determination to keep going.

Whatever lies ahead for Alice in Chains, the fans will be waiting.

Super Mario Party touches on its roots and originality

By Justin Mazurkiewicz

Staff Writer

"Mario Party" takes it back to its original form in the new "Super Mario Party" for the Nintendo Switch.

"Super Mario" brings forward five main game modes with a ton of minigames and other activities to play in. The main five modes include "Mario Party," "Partner Party," "River Survival," "Sound Stage," and "Minigames."

"Mario Party" is your normal linear "Mario Party Mode," with there being a linear game board where players are all pursuing stars that appear at spaces on the board.

"Partner Party" is a team party where the board becomes a grid instead of the usual linear track and free movement between the teammates.

"River Survival" is a four-player cooperative mode which blends a game of rafting down rapids in a jungle with playing minigames to extend the timer that is ticking down.

"Sound Stage" comprises a bunch of small and fast minigames that all have something to do with rhythm. "Minigames" has little mini game competitions as well as a free play mode to let players try out their favorite minigames. In previous Mario Party's there have been little side modes, but these never amounted to anything

good.

Every game mode in "Super Mario Party" is very fun, innovative, and challenging to both new and old players. Along with new games comes new characters. Not only can you play as the usual "Mario" characters, but now you can even play as Bowser, Shy Guy, Goomba, and many other villains in "Mario."

What makes all these characters being included better is the addition of character dice that are utilized in the party modes. Every player gets access to their normal dice block between one and six, but the character dice block will have a different assortment of numbers. For example, Mario's character block will have a one,

three threes, and two fives for his block. Others are more high-risk, high-reward, like Bowser's where the dice has a lot of high numbers, but also a one and even sides that take away coins and don't let you move at all.

You can also land on ally spaces and other things to get allies. Allies will be random characters that will lend you their character block and even roll a small block of their own to bump up your moves. These allies also affect some minigames.

One minigame that involved allies was a minigame that was like a hot potato of sorts. The more allies a player had meant the more chances they had of winning. I was disappointed that

the maximum amount of turns for the party modes was only 20 instead of the traditional 50, but the turns did seem like they took a longer time to go through.

Also, if you were hoping to play with your friends online, don't even bother. The only online game mode is a cup of preselected minigames and not even a party mode.

However, if you haven't picked up a copy or given it a try yet, do it. Super Mario Party succeeds in delivering that wonderful, friendship ruining experience that everyone has come to love.



Photo courtesy of Nintendo.com

12 ENTERTAINMENT

'Tha Carter V': a huge comeback, worth wait

By Matt Zalatoris

Staff Writer

After a long hiatus involving legal battles with his former boss, Birdman, Lil Wayne has finally been able to release his long-awaited continuation of his "Carter" series with "Tha Carter V."

It is a welcomed addition to this year of hip-hop music along with big names like Drake, Travis Scott, Eminem, and many others. "Tha Carter V" is a rather noteworthy album in this mass amount of music, not only due to Lil Wayne's reputation as one of the best and biggest rappers in the world but due to the content of the album.

After "Tha Carter IV" dropped, though it was considered a decent album, it began to signal the twilight of Wayne's career as he began to use the same type of style and punch lies in his songs with no real substance behind them.

There seemed to be no life left in him from a music perspective as he released several mixtapes in the 2010s which were not met with good remarks. Once "Tha Carter V" was released, many fans were not sure if just the long-awaited arrival of this album would create too much hype that the album would just not be able to meet.

However, that was not the case. The delay was worth it and by having to wait these extra four years it helped the quality of the album. This gap between albums gave Wayne time to reflect and



Photo courtesy of Redandblack.com

create a rather heartfelt album rather than his previous few bodies of work.

Wayne is no longer as braggadocious as he once was, claiming at one time to be "the best rapper alive." This "new" Wayne is much more open on the album than his past albums and leaves some of his bad habits behind, such as corny punchlines as well as constant and overused sexual references. Thankfully, those are left behind and we see elements of what made Wayne so prominent in the rap game in the first place.

Some of the songs on this album were written and produced in 2014 and others were created

this year. However, the producing is well done as it transitions seamlessly between each song, not showing any signs of age between the older and newer songs.

To complement the well-produced songs, almost every feature is well done. Nicki Minaj has one of the best features of her career in "Dark Side of the Moon"

It is a metaphorical song of the world ending and how the "characters" in this song will stay together no matter what. It is refreshing material from Minaj as she has been in a slump with repetitive sexual innuendo that has hurt her discography in the hip hop community.

Some of the artists featured give off a vibe that takes them back to their older music. One perfect example was Kendrick Lamar's feature on possible rap collaboration "Mona Lisa." It is a rather odd song as it is based around a woman setting up her boyfriend for a robbery and it is told from two different perspectives: Wayne's and Lamar's.

With their amazing story telling skills combined with their technical rap skills, they create one of the standout tracks on this album. Another standalone track is "Don't Cry" featuring XXXTentacion which creates a rather misleading and somber

tone with his haunting chorus pleading for a girl to not leave him.

Travis Scott comes in on "Let it Fly" creating a rodeo vibe with his melodic hook and strangely pitched autotune which sounded different than his recently dropped album "AstroWorld."

My personal favorite is "Can't be Broken" as it is a rather reflective song about all the hardships Wayne has faced and has become a stronger man because of it.

The album cover has Wayne's mom standing next to a younger version of himself, which is not her only influence on this album. The album's first song, "I Love You Dwayne," his mom monologues their struggles and how proud of Wayne she is and how proud she is of the man he has become.

That first song sets the stage for an emotional tone. While that is slightly misleading, as a decent amount of the album does not exactly tug on the heartstrings, the other tracks are well done that Wayne reflects on his life with.

No song hits quite as hard as the album ender, "Let it all Work Out," in which Wayne reveals that he once shot himself when he was 12-years-old while attempting to commit suicide.

This is an emotional end to a well-crafted album as he finishes up with an open song which is telling to how hard of an environment he grew up in.

Overall, "Tha Carter V" was very enjoyable and even non Lil Wayne fans will get something out of his new album.

'Life is strange 2' lives up to predecessor

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

"Once upon a time, in a wild, wild world, there were two wolf brothers living in their home lair with their papa wolf. They all lived happily together, but one day hunters took their dad away forever, so now the brothers were alone and they had to find a new home. They went started a new journey..."

"Life is Strange 2," the sequel to the original and amazing "Life is Strange" developed by Dontnod Entertainment tells the story of a 17-year-old Mexican-American boy named Sean Diaz who is accompanied by his little brother Daniel.

While Sean is protecting Daniel from a rowdy neighbor, a policeman shows up and instantly flashes his gun nervously. Their father comes out of the house, and while attempting to calm down the officer, is shot in cold blood. Daniel then explodes with his mysterious power (that suspiciously looks like telekinesis), turning over the police car and showing a possibly-dead policeman.

"Sean, am I a monster?"

After this incident, Sean instantly carries his brother out of there, knowing that they had to

run in order to stay free and out of the system.

Sean does not feature any superpowers such as Max Caulfield's ability to reverse time, leaving the player with choices that cannot be reversed like the previous game.

This leads to higher stakes and irreversible choices, which made me really think about every single decision I made: from choosing to steal money from the "drug money" jar to my choices leading me to get kidnapped by a racist redneck.

"There's nothing we can't do, as long as we're together."

Sean does his best to comfort his little brother Daniel as they decide to begin their journey to Puerto Lobos, where their father grew up in order to hopefully find family and protection. Along the way, Sean learns to do more than simply look out or protect Daniel: he learns to become a real brother and raise him by being supportive, calm and understanding compared to how harsh and stingy he was with him in the beginning of the episode.

You will experience harsh politics and racism come into play again against Latino immigrants. A man owning the gas station, even after I chose to

simply buy the food and not steal it, assumes I stole it anyways and kidnaps Sean and ties him up in a room. He mentions calling ICE to make sure they were "legal immigrants" and that he wished they would build a wall to keep people like the Diaz brothers out of America.

"Injustice is everywhere, and you're taking the brunt of it right now," Brody said.

This was a situation that could have been handled very badly by Dontnod Entertainment, but they executed it almost perfectly and it added a new dimension to the "Life is Strange" universe.

In the original "Life is Strange," the story focused on more of a friendship/emotional impact and did not care about any outside influences. Now, Dontnod Entertainment is taking us in a different direction, attempting to bring to light relevant problems happening now in America. It shows us lives that maybe the viewer can relate to, and maybe they can't but they can still sympathize and understand. The emotions in this game will really depend on the viewers personal situation in their own lives.

Normally, you would see boys and think, "this game won't have any emotional impact." But this

is not the case at all. Talking to Brody, a traveling journalists who helps Sean and Daniel escape the shop, Sean let's his tears out as he mourns the death of his father and his life, and you can't help but to sympathize with them.

Dontnod has always excelled in telling teenage angst stories that no other game ever could, and despite the original "Life is Strange" being "hella" cringe in many instances, I have to admit that I bawled my eyes out in certain emotional scenes. In "Life is Strange 2," I guarantee you by episode five my face will be drenched with tears yet again.

Let's talk about those graphics though: stellar. That's all I can say. It's not hard to compare the 2013 "Life is Strange" to the 2018 version and instantly see the quality differences that are separated by time and the evolution of technology. There are also no awkward cutscenes that make no sense, and the choices you make don't simply lead you around in a circle again like the prequel.

Another thing to compare to the prequel is the length of the episode. For the first episode, "Life is Strange 2" took me nearly three hours to complete,

while the original "Life is Strange" took me merely an hour and a half to complete. This is a significant amount and makes me wonder how long the remaining episodes will be and makes me ecstatic to see the extra amount of plot and story we will get to experience.

For the people who like games with side quests and other aesthetic things, similar to the original "Life is Strange," players have a journal and other options to see art that Sean has drawn, his phone messages, his backpack and other things.

These aren't as important as they are aesthetic, but if you're attempting to emotionally invest yourself into the game then I highly recommend looking at the journal. The journal gives you a real insight into the agony that Sean is feeling over everything going on, even if he won't say it outloud.

"Life is Strange 2" does not currently have an official release date for the next episode, so I will impatiently wait. If you have not played this game, I highly recommend it: the cringe is mostly gone, the cutscenes are great, and the story itself is sure to tug at your heartstrings.

What is next for McGregor?



By John Saffrahn

Sports Editor

In the days following the biggest event in UFC history, everyone who witnessed the fight was left talking more about the brawl after the main event than the fight itself.

Post-fight, no one seems to be talking about what is next for the UFC's most marketable man, Conor McGregor.

Khabib Nurmagomedov, the defending lightweight champion, finished the fight via rear naked choke in the fourth round. The entire fight was essentially a one-sided beating minus about 30 seconds in the third round.

The only comments McGregor made about the fight were two

tweets. The first stated, "Good knock. Looking forward to the rematch." The second tweet stated, "We lost the match but won the battle. The war goes on."

Unless he is referring to the \$3 million he made for the fight, he didn't win any match or battle. Also, it looks to be a pretty one-sided war. However, that is just McGregor's usual, endless self-promotion. It's more important to know, however, is if there will be a rematch.

For the UFC to put together a rematch right away would be ridiculous. The fight was not competitive in the least. They let McGregor cut the line of contenders once simply because he never actually lost the belt in a fight. The lightweight division has too deep of a roster for an immediate rematch.

Tony Ferguson, who was the former interim lightweight champion, is now on an 11-fight win streak after defeating Anthony Pettis at UFC 229. Ferguson was stripped of his title because he injured his knee and the UFC didn't want to wait for his return. Now he is back and offers Nurmagomedov a much more challenging fight than McGregor.

There is really only one fight that makes sense for McGregor

right now and that is Nate Diaz. McGregor would make a bunch of money and the fans would finally get the conclusion to one of the most anticipated trilogies in sports history.

Diaz hasn't fought since his last fight with McGregor, which did \$1.65 million in pay-per-view buys. With McGregor coming off of a loss, it is a much more plausible fight than if he was still the champion.

Stylistically, it is a much more entertaining fight for the masses than a rematch with Nurmagomedov. While UFC 229 was the most pay-per-view buys in UFC history, with over \$2 million, it was a very situational fight. Had this not been McGregor's comeback fight and had the incident in New York not happened, this fight would not have done nearly as well.

While it was the most hyped up fight since McGregor vs. Mayweather, it had the same result. McGregor losing to a fighter he only had a small chance against.

Diaz on the other hand is a very different story. While it is true that on that ground, Diaz is much more experienced and could most likely win the fight with only moderate resistance, the first two fights have shown us that Diaz

wants to stand up.

McGregor is the more well-rounded striker when factoring in his kicks and the power in his left hand, while Diaz is much more of a boxer who throws the occasional kick. However, that is where McGregors advantage ends.

Diaz has proven to have much better cardio and an iron chin over his long career, where McGregor has been gassed and stopped in three of his last five fights.

While I think it is Diaz who would win this third fight, he had better finish it if he hopes to get his hand raised. There were many who thought he won the second fight but was robbed in order for McGregor to save face and set up the trilogy. If McGregor needed a win then, he definitely needs one now in order to avoid the nail in the coffin of his career.

But it could all be in vain. Should McGregor lose to Diaz, it would seem his status as the best fighter in the world would no longer stand. His only move then would be to beg Dana White to create a 165-pound division so he would have a chance of being champion again.

Should he somehow beat Diaz, he would most likely get a rematch with that would almost certainly end in the same fashion as the first.

At that point he would have two options. He could wait for Nurmagomedov to retire to regain his title, which would leave a DC-Jones sized smudge to his legacy. Secondly and more likely given that with \$100 million sitting in his bank account, he could retire back to Ireland to sell mediocre whiskey and fade into the distance of fight-fans memories.

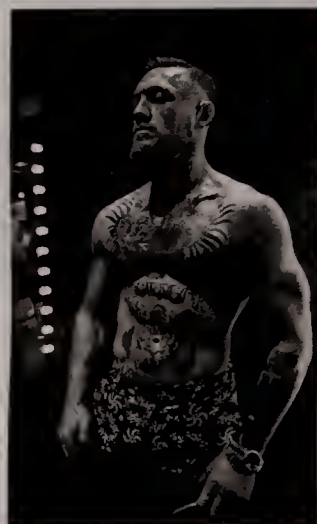


Photo courtesy of CalvinAyre.com

Conor McGregor poses.

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Away @ Triton College	Home	Away @ Richard J. Daley College	Away @ Prairie State College	Home

For a full list of sporting events go to jjcwolves.com

Men's Basketball looks for a return to glory in 2018-19

By Matt Zalatoris

Staff Writer

Basketball season is soon to be in full swing around the country, as well as here at Junior Joliet College.

As an organization the Wolves have had a rough go of it the last few seasons, following their last national tournament appearance in 2011. That followed a national championship year in 2010.

However, this upcoming season there will be a lot of change from last season. The

Wolves only have one player returning, Trey Wornica. Along with that they also have Jaylen Jones transferring from conference rival, Rock Valley.

Wornica and Jones are expected to fill big roles this upcoming season. "We look for Trey Wornica and Jaylen Jones to provide leadership and to help our young guys both on and off the floor," said head coach Joe Kuhn.

Heading into this season the Wolves are seeing an influx of new talent with a basically whole new roster. With that in mind, the new players are hoping to look to

these two players for guidance. As Kuhn puts it, "(They) provide insight to the other players coming from a player perspective.

Experience is a much-needed asset for this young team especially, at the college level, which every basketball player could tell you differs very differently from high school.

With a whole new team coming into this season, team chemistry is expected to take some time to develop. The goal is hoping that issue will be solved in reasonable amount of time during the season. In terms of positives, Kuhn has

been impressed from what he has seen so far this offseason. "We have a pretty nice group of young men that work hard."

As this team develops as a whole throughout the season there is really only one goal in mind.

"Our goal every year is to win our region and have a chance to get to the National Tournament," said Kuhn. Though this seems like an obvious goal for every team suiting up this basketball season, the Wolves could be a possible dark horse team with their new additions.

Though with these high expectations you can expect a rough start to the year as they gel together. However, with all the new additions it could be considered a change of culture for this program as they hopefully contend for a National Championship for the first time since the beginning of the decade.

This team may have the potential to draw in the Joliet Junior College community as they progress through the season. This season is poised to be an exciting one as they chase a championship.



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Country from page 1

McCarthy's 13th season with the program and Sutton's third. Sutton is a former runner for the Wolves. He was a team member of the inaugural Joliet Junior College men's cross country team back in 2005. He competed for the Wolves again in 2006 as well.

Both teams competed in the Benedictine cross country invitational on Oct. 6. Hageman

had the best time for the men finishing 81st overall. Other notable finishes for the Wolves were Quintero taking 120th place, Rodrigues finished 128th overall, and Klepec finished 152nd overall.

For the Lady Wolves, Pineda finished in 48th place with an impressive time of 25:24. Gallichio placed 123rd, Aguilar finished 146th, and Wakefield

Finished 148th overall. When asked about how he felt about the teams' seasons so far, McCarthy said, "[We have an] exceptional group of young athletes this year on both the men and women's side. Everyone is working hard and doing everything they can to help their teams."

The men and women's teams are both filled with young

runners this season, meaning there will be plenty of returners for next season. The entire women's roster is made up of freshmen and four of the eight men runners are also freshmen.

Both teams compete in some very tough races throughout the season, against many 4-year universities who give out scholarships. While that may be a challenge for such a young team, McCarthy says that his team has done well and it is good preparation for the upcoming regionals and nationals.

But with a young, less experienced team, also comes a lot of growth and improvement over the course of a season. "All of our runners have gradually improved all season. [We are] really seeing all of their hard work pay off in the last few races," said McCarthy.

Of all of the improving runners, Hageman's development has been impressive. Hageman has lowered his 8k time by over two minutes in the last two weeks. That is even more impressive considering this is his first year running 8k races.

In high school, the men's races are only three miles compared to the 8k (which is almost 5 miles) ran in college. It is definitely a new challenge, but one that Hageman has met head on.

From the women's team, Pineda has been having an incredible season so far in her freshman year as well. On Friday, Oct. 12, Pineda ran the second fastest 6k time for women in school history at 24:46. That is second only to Claudia Davila who was a former 2-time All-American.

Pineda may be in position for an All-American season herself along with fellow freshman Hageman. "[Both] have had an amazing season so far. Both have a great chance at All-American honors at nationals," said McCarthy.

The top 15 runners from both men and women runners will be awarded All-American honors. But before nationals, the teams will compete in their regionals.

The region IV championship races will be held at Lake County on Saturday, Oct. 27, at 10 a.m.

The men and women's team have been working extremely hard all season long getting ready to compete in the regionals and McCarthy could not be more proud of his team's efforts.

When asked about his feelings on the remainder of the season, McCarthy said, "We have made great improvements and gained a lot of experience. We are looking forward to competing for the All-American spots at nationals and are very excited about what the future holds."

"[We are] really seeing all of their hard work pay off in the last few races."
-Coach Richard McCarthy



Coby Hageman, center, races this fall for the Wolves. Photo courtesy of Richard McCarthy

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SPORTS

Women's basketball shoots for amazing season

By Ricky Saravia

Staff Writer

The JJC Lady Wolves basketball team is back in business and ready to devour the competition this fall yet again.

The ladies are hitting the weights and getting back into rhythm after an electrifying 25 wins and eight losses over the 2017-18' season and nearly clinching the NJCAA region IV championship title

The wolves look forward to topping those past records with dedicated mindsets of winning the conference title, winning the regional and district tournament, and competing on a national level dominating the best of the best with new and returning talent.

Leading the wolf pack is two-time N4C conference and NCJAA region IV Coach of the Year Shaun Sanders.

This will be Sanders 11th season as head coach of the lady wolves and credits his success to the love and passion for the sport. Consistently sharing his wisdom and knowledge to help develop student athletes, he hopes to take their game to the next level.

He has devoted his life to see the team win on and off the court.

"I love the game and the relationships I have developed with coaches around the country," he says, "more importantly, it gives me an opportunity to help develop student athletes basketball and life skills."

Sanders is also known for having an eye for recruitment with helping local talent step their game up, making it easier for them to reach success on their journey after JJC.

"We look for some sort of skill. An average shooter, good ball handler, good defender, good rebounder or anything that we can blend together to make



Talia Edwards drives in the lane during the alumni game on Oct. 13.

Photo by Meghan Blenck

us a good team. If the student-athlete is dedicated to becoming a better player, then JJC is the place for them," Sanders says.

And Sanders is a man of his word.

In Sanders's 11 years of head coaching at the college, he's had 16 all-conference players, 12 all-tournament players, 11 all-regional players, two All-American, and three academic All-Americans.

With a new season on the way means there will be some new faces. Sanders was able to name a couple new players who he was exciting to work with and help evolve and progress their skills on the court.

Lynese Johnson, Amil Mitchell, Maiya Creal & transfer student Emily Atsinger are all new faces that Coach Sanders feels confident about and "will

be major contributors with their abilities to score and high basketball IQ's."

Johnson and Atsinger are both extremely excited for the season to finally start.

Johnson herself is looking forward to a fun season that involves events getting the team together, and it is a new start for her since she's a freshman at JJC.

"I'm super excited, I'm super happy for it. It's a great opportunity to be here at JJC with a great coaching staff and everything. The facilities are great so I'm looking forward to a great season," Johnson said.

The team has been doing multiple scrimmages and Atsinger is ready to start the official season finally.

"I think we have a really nice roster and we all get along really

well. I think we're going to go very far. I'm looking forward to winning for sure; I think we're going to win a lot," said Atsinger.

An exciting and anticipated return to the JJC hardwood is Sophomore Talia Edwards from Bolingbrook.

Edwards is coming of a spectacular freshmen season averaging 8.3 points per game, 7.7 rebounds per game, and scoring at a 46.6% field goal percentage making her a lethal competitor in the paint.

Edwards was also chosen to play in the 2018 NJCAA Women's All-Star Basketball game in Atlanta, Georgia, making her presence known early on for coaches at 4-year universities from all across the nation.

With more of feel for the games tempo, she is bound to become a tremendous impact in

every game.

Edwards says that she is looking forward to see what they can do as a team because she's a sophomore now and there are seven freshmen and she's excited to see what all they can do.

"I love the heart that goes into playing basketball, and I love the heart that the freshmen bring to the game of basketball," Edwards says.

She also believes that JJC needs a womens sports team to finally be brought to the forefront. "I'm really looking forward [to the season], I think we can go to nationals. And that's something a JJC's womens sport needs and I think we're the team to do it."

The Lady Wolves will be kicking off the start to their season on Saturday, Nov. 10 against McHenry County College.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Mens Soccer Jaime Huichapa



Freshman forward Jamie Huichapa is currently second in goals for his team with six. Four of those six goals were scored in the game on Sept. 28 against Milwaukee Area Technical College. He also played a high of 93 minutes on Sept. 26 against Madison College.

Womens Soccer Taylor Metcalf



Freshman Taylor Metcalf is coming off a season high with six goals against conference opponent Rock Valley college on Oct. 12. Those six goals give her 21 goals on the year. That is second best on the team. She also has 11 assists in the season, making Metcalf a must-watch freshman.

THE BLAZER

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Admin. meets with Student Gvt.

By Meghan Blenck

Assistant Production Manager

One of the most vital parts of a successful student government is their ability to share and try to problem solve with higher officials. Student government got that opportunity on Nov. 1 when three high level administrators attended their meeting.

Dr. Yolanda Farmer, vice president of student development, Robert Morris, dean of enrollment management, and Dr. Angela Kaysen Luzbetak, dean of student success, came to the meeting to discuss new ideas for incoming student success.

Morris is a newcomer to the college, who started only six months ago. His main role is recruiting students from high school. He also oversees the rest of the admissions staff, financial aid department, and office of records and registration. His goal is to make the students comfortable with the admission process and feel welcome to the college atmosphere.

"One of the things I noticed when I got here is that it such a big institution, and when you are faced with that things can get a little impersonalized," said Morris.

"What I am trying to do with the admissions team is to sort of put the recruiters out there in a way so people know who they are what they do, what high schools they visit, and really look at recruitment in a whole new way."

He knows that students choose to go to the community college for a variety of different reasons, and he and his team want to make sure they understand what each category of students need. His first plan of attack is to get

See Student page 5

JJC helps saves the bees

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

Fear not, bee lovers - JJC is on the case.

Thanks to the Bayer Feed A Bee program, JJC is able to help out the bees and other pollinators (such as butterflies, moths, etc). They received a \$1 thousand grant last fall and have since used that to put in a pollinator forage in the JJC landlab west of the greenhouse.

"It was an excellent opportunity for JJC to obtain funds to establish a pollinator habitat. Something we need more of within the landlab and farm field area on campus," says JJC Horticulture Professor Lisa Perkins.

Perkins and Dr. Fredric Miller, PhD entomologist and instructor

See Helps page 7



Multiple bee hives are operating on JJC's campus next to the greenhouse. Photo by Jessica Mack

JJC adds fee to dual credit classes

By Meghan Blenck

Assistant Production Manager

For the fall 2019 semester, high school's that have Joliet Junior College dual credits available will now be charged \$50 per course. The action was voted 7-0 by the JJC board on their meeting Oct. 8.

Amy Kittle, manager of dual credit, said that it will help promote access and help make investment and help maintain eligibility of the program.

The board agreed this was a fair price for the class. The students will only pay about an eighth of what taking the class on campus would actually cost.

A three credit class is usually in the lower \$400 range. Some schools such as Minooka Community High School even supply the textbooks for their students to use for the semester.

"Personally, if the money is used to continue educating the teachers for higher standards than it is a good idea. Comparing

to taking the class at the college you get a really good discount. I think it will have a good outcome," Rebecca Ashbacher, student government vice president said.

Students who pay the fee will be eligible to receive

See Dual page 6

Mens soccer stacked with Regional players

By Ricky Saravia

Sports Editor

The Men's Wolves soccer team ended its season on a down note when it fell to Madison College in Region IV Quarterfinals on Oct. 13. The 2-1 loss left the Wolves with a 5-9-2 record for the season.

Leonardo Haro, assisted by Christian Galvan, scored the first goal at the 5:43 minute

mark putting the Wolves on top in the first half. However, the team was not able to hold the lead as Madison's own Dejesus Herrera scored two goals within 10 minutes at the 80 minute mark, resulting in the end of the Wolves season.

Goalkeeper Christian Aguayo had three saves, keeping the wolves afloat with his strong defensive presence. The sophomore ended his second season with the wolves on a

positive note.

Aguayo finished the season with 84 goals deflected with a .724 goals denied percentage placing himself at 15th in the nation on goals saved this season.

Aguayo was not the only one putting up big numbers this season.

Christian Galvan, Leonardo Haro, and Malek Rashid were players whose hard work and dedication of the sports were

recognized. These players were all selected for the 2018-19 All-Region team.

Galvan, Romeoville, was chosen for the first team while teammates, Haro, Joliet, and Malek, Romeoville, were selected for the second team to represent JJC and making us proud.

Galvan himself had himself a great first season with the

See Soccer page 14

Check out
what is
inside
this
issue

Haunted 5K
Page 8



Trunk or Treat
Page 9



Blazer takes a reflective perspective

Many students struggle with depression or suicidal thoughts. JJC professor of psychology, Jamey DiVietro, has seen it time and again. With stats like "one person commits suicide every 12 minutes," it is important to reflect on the positives.

This issue, the Blazer reflects on some stories to be thankful for.

First up, the JJC Horticulture gets some honey through a \$1 thousand grant for saving the bee population around campus. The new habitat plans will be seen unfolding in the JJC landlab, just west of the greenhouse, visible for many students as they make their way onto campus.

Students who attend the student government meetings would give thanks for the student-centric goals laid out by JJC's administrative staff, like the dean of student enrollment. According to administration, every

student should have a realistic aim to graduate on time.

JJC, being a larger community college, has many resources at the disposal of the students, from counseling services to one on one class planning. This aim is nothing short of realistic. Now that's something to take notice of.

And speaking of enrollment, some 1,000 new students will come next semester. In addition to the 3,000 new enrollments this past fall, this influx will certainly bring new life to many student clubs and programs on the campus.

The idea that so many new faces will be walking the halls of JJC, with new ideas and perspectives to go around, is something worth placing gratitude on for sure. As many JJC readers may reflect, it was not long ago that the first day jitters were their own to bear.

Walk through any hallway on campus and be grateful

for the amount of people to go around. Thanks can be had in taking time to sit down with students and sparking up an interesting political discussion, or talk about religious studies. Or perhaps settle for talking about the weather; no matter what, a student will find engaged, meaningful opinions from JJC constituents.

Of the students here on campus already, so many are engaged in the JJC culture that occurs outside of the classroom. From 364 people turning out for the annual Haunted 5K, to the 1500 or so attendees of the Trunk or Treat event, JJC shows up when called to action. The involvement is always a site to see, no matter the task or the treats.

When reflecting, JJC has a lot going on to be grateful for. When the weather starts to change and the days get shorter, taking time to appreciate the present for what it is tends to be the

best move to make.

The Blazer editors would like to say thanks to all of our staff writers and copy editors as well, for their committed and creative coverage of our community college campus. Our writers have covered it all, from suicide awareness to a review of student-popular video games and albums.

Picking up this issue of the Blazer should spark just as much thanks as anything else. Take the time to realize the good.

Readers should take to the web to visit the Blazer website, to listen to the latest episode of the Blazecast. On the podcast the Blazer received a call from a congressional candidate for Illinois' 14 district to discuss key topics of interest in this year's political race. From education to healthcare coverage, Lauren Underwood has a stance on the matter, aimed to make a difference.

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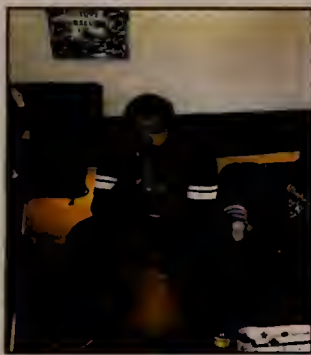
Question of the Issue:

Should citizens be required to vote?



Nathaniel Revish

"I think maybe it should because everyone should have the option to vote and have their own say as to who should be leading our country's future. So I do think it should be mandatory for all citizens to vote. Everyone should take the chance to vote because who know where we are going to be four years from now. We as the next generation should try and make a difference to bring our country together rather than tearing it apart."



Ryan Ripson

"I do think voting should be mandatory because in an African American household they tell us that our votes don't matter because that's the way they were raised. But to be honest with you, I think all votes matter and if it's your right to vote, I think you should vote."



Kyle Conway

"No. Because it's America, and at the end of the day if you don't want to vote it's your right not to vote."



Itza Espino

"Americans should vote, but you can't force them to. If they don't want to vote, they don't want to vote. People should vote, but they shouldn't be forced to."

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Jess Because I Can

You're perfect the way you are



By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

These stories are based on personal events, experiences, or any outside influence and an alias is used for anyone involved in the story.

Around two months ago, my boyfriend (we'll call him K) said the worst four words a girl could ever hear: "Are you gaining weight?"

Now, mind you, we have a funny relationship. We antagonize each other, make fun, insult, etc. and our feelings are never hurt. But this time, it hit me right in the gut.

"What do you mean?" I had asked him, because I was pretty sure I hadn't gained any weight recently, but then again, what did I know?

Instead of replying, he advised we go downstairs and weigh each other. I decided to comply, only to satisfy his curiosity (but I guess at this point I too was intrigued but nervous).

Taking my shoes off, K rolled his eyes and I rolled mine right

back at him. "These things add pounds you know!"

"I'm sure they do," he laughed.

I stepped on the scale, and right before my eyes, I came to the realization that perhaps he was right. With a scowl, I stepped off. I had gained nine pounds since last spring.

He grinned at me and stepped on the scale. Immediately, his stupid grin was washed away and he gulped like a fish out of water at the number on the scale, jumping off like it was going to bite him.

"Looks like we need to work out," he declared, choking on laughter as I mumbled something about it not being fair.

I pouted, "I guess I should start dieting. Eat more salad. Less pasta." But that didn't sound good at all. And K had told me

explicitly after this event that I definitely did not look my weight: I looked skinny and healthy.

But after two weeks, we really did see results. I had lost five pounds.

But I was miserable. Well, maybe not miserable: but I wasn't explicitly enjoying life at the moment. I had refrained myself from eating my favorite foods or I had simply just started to eat less of it, which meant I wasn't full and I was constantly hungry. Salads were good, but not in excess.

Working out itself felt good. I would feel the burn in my legs and feel invigorated that I was finally exercising those muscles again, gaining strength and losing fat all in one go.

So what did I decide to do? I decided to be better to myself.

I began to eat the portions I wanted, but I didn't overfill myself because, well, why?

I continue to work out every Tuesday evening after class with K, and he deals with my moaning and moping. Really, I only do it because I'm exhausted after class, and it's funny to see his reactions. Since I made this decision, my weight has gone up and down: so no, I'm not losing weight anymore. I am average in my ideal weight spectrum, and, in my opinion and K's opinion, I look fine. I'm happy.

Be happy with who you are if you're comfortable with yourself. If you're not, then don't be lazy and let the struggles of life be an excuse for your lack of motivation: you really do only live once, and you should make the best of it.

Don't get blinded by the lies



By Lauren Bulow

Copy Editor

The Center of Disease Control (CDC) is a federal agency that conducts health promotion and prevention, but most importantly, they direct the United States' emergency plans. The CDC is prepared and equipped to handle thousands of disasters.

On their website, they have lists of every situation they have planned for. From AIDS to the Zika virus, the CDC has a step by step plan that describes how to handle a massive outbreak. They even have an emergency plan for the zombie apocalypse.

However, the CDC is alarmingly unprepared for the most dangerous threat to the human race as a whole: shapeshifting reptilian people. They are merciless gods here to wreak havoc on our society. Do not bother trying to run, they are already here.

According to conspiracy researcher, David Icke, shapeshifting reptilians from an alien race control our entire world. Icke claims that there are alternate realities that are layered upon our own. Each reality runs on a different frequency, much like radio stations. Sometimes, these realities can overlap, the same way radio stations

sometimes interfere with one another. Icke claims that the reptilian shapeshifters have found a way to control this interference, thus resulting in their ability to jump into different realities. Including our own.

The reptilian shapeshifters have been entering our reality for thousands of years. When they first appeared, they were worshipped as gods. This is why many ancient civilizations worshiped non-human deities. Icke claims that these reptilian shapeshifters bred with ancient leaders and created a hybrid race destined to rule.

This is supported by the fact that in many aristocratic societies, citizens believed that their kings or pharaohs were given the ability to rule by the gods, or in some cases, were gods themselves. For example, ancient Chinese people believed their emperors were descendants from serpent gods. Icke also believes that the of inbreeding in royal families was the result of ancients trying to pass the reptilian gene to the next generation.

The integration of reptilian people in government, unfortunately, does not stop with kings and emperors. William Tompkins, an American Republican party politician who served as the U.S. Attorney from New Jersey, claims that the U.S. government is run by non-human entities.

In 2015, Tompkins wrote a book that describes how he was sanctioned in 1942 into a top-secret intelligence operation at the naval base in San Diego where his role was to interact with aliens. In his book, Tompkins produces pictures and documents that support his claims that world governments are controlled by an alien race. For more information, read Tompkins' book, "Selected by Extraterrestrials: My Life

in the Top-secret World of UFOs., Think-tanks, and Nordic Secretaries."

Not only do these alien creatures dominate our governments, but Icke believes that they have also found ways to control our minds through a massive satellite in Earth's orbit cleverly disguised as the moon. New intelligence by Icke informs the public that

reptilian shapeshifters have made the moon into a satellite designed to project transmissions that manipulate our thoughts and feelings. The moon is now the base operations for these reptilian shapeshifters who look down on earth like angry gods observing their servants. Our precious moon is now the alien's death star.

Icke has over 60 million

followers worldwide, but he claims that 60 million is not nearly enough. In order to break the chains that bind humanity to the will of alien tyrants, humans need to band together. Icke urges people to spread his truth and convince fellow human beings to join his cause. Only united, can humanity overthrow the reptilian overlords.



A lizard.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Bulow

Cancer can't beat love



By Lauren Bulow

Copy Editor

Cancer sucks. Especially breast cancer. About 40,920 women in the U.S. are expected to die in 2018 from breast cancer. That's an awfully high number, but it has been decreasing due to research and early screenings.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. I'm not sure why it's October, maybe because it's spooky season and the scariest thing that could happen to you would be cancer.

Either way, there are fundraisers and 5Ks almost every weekend, athletes will wear pink socks or jerseys, snapchat has half a dozen filters relating to it, and you can find pink shirts at nearly every store that say, "fight like a girl."

All of these events are intended to educate people about the importance of early screening, and the money raised goes to finding a cure for cancer which is so important.

My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer December of 2014.

I guess you could say she got cancer for Christmas.

When the doctors told us she had an aggressive form of breast cancer, I thought it was a death sentence. Thankfully, they caught it early on so she had a good chance at fighting it.

However, my mom was already sick with a very rare lung disease called Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis (try saying that ten times fast) also known as PAP. Basically, her body couldn't create enough of the protein that breaks down the mucous in her lungs so it was like she had pneumonia all the time.

And no, she was never a smoker. She just has really, really bad luck.

She was diagnosed with PAP in 2003 and it went into remission around 2008 but the disease had already taken its toll on her, making her reliant on an oxygen machine and causing her to go into violent coughing fits multiple times a day.

When the oncologist diagnosed her with the breast cancer I remember my mom saying, "you've got to be kidding me." Unfortunately and unsurprisingly, he was not. Either way, my mom was determined to kick cancer's ass.

Right off the bat she had a double mastectomy, which is the fancy term for chopping - I'm sorry - surgically removing both breasts. For weeks after, she had a tube coming out of the incisions that drained the blood and other fluids from the wound. My siblings and I had to measure the fluids that came out. It was super



Breast Cancer Statistics

- 1 out of 8 women U.S will develop breast cancer
- 1 out of 1,000 U.s men will develop breast cancer
- Breast cancer has the highest death rate, under lung cancer
- For women under 45, African American are more likely to get breast cancer than white women
- About 85% of women diagnosed had no family history of the cancer

All facts from BreastCancer.org



gross, but it toughened us up.

After surgery, she went through six rounds of rigorous chemotherapy. Over time, she lost all of her hair and I don't just mean the hair on her head. She lost all of it.

Her eyelashes were gone, so her eyes were easily irritated. All of the hair in her nose fell out so she had a runny nose all of the time. She was not amused when I told her to catch her runny nose.

Chemotherapy makes everything taste like chemicals, so my mom lost an unhealthy amount of weight. After just a couple months, I could see every single one of her ribs. It was so hard to see her waste away. I felt absolutely powerless.

I was never angry, though. I realized that getting pissed off at

the world for not being fair was not going to help anything. So instead, I did my best to be my mom's rock. I was there for every chemo treatment, every follow-up appointment, and to hold her when she cried.

We had a huge support group, though. My mom was very recognizable in our community due to her kindness, her oxygen tank, coughing fits, and bald head. People I didn't even recognize would stop me and ask how my mom was. They all wanted me to let her know that they were sending us their prayers.

Neighbors, friends, and family would bring a dinner every other day to help out our family. We would get gift cards in the mail from teammates along with get-well cards. I never realized how

ridiculously kind people could be.

Cancer sucks, but it sucks less when you have the right people on your side.

After six months of chemotherapy the breast cancer went into remission and we thank our lucky stars every day. Breast cancer sucks so hard and my mom went through an incredible difficult journey that we pray we'll never have to go through again. However, it could have been so much worse. They caught the cancer at a very early stage at a routine mammogram.

So please, take your health into your own hands by doing self exams and annual mammograms no matter your age, because catching cancer at an early stage could be your greatest defense.

Trust your gut for the career you want



By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

I'm a film major. Specifically, I'm aspiring to be a film editor. It's something I've been working at since I was 15-years-old, and I have never been so certain about what I want to do in life.

Nothing has ever dissuaded me from pursuing this dream, but you might be able to imagine some of the slightly intimidating reactions.

"You've got your work cut out for you!"

Gulp.

"You'll probably end up in L.A.!"

Hang on a minute...

I'll admit, a career like this will definitely not be easy, but it can lead to an exciting journey. All the way to California, though? Let's get that degree first.

Every potential career comes with some challenges. Whether it's finding that internship, getting your foot in the door with a big company, or something a little closer to home, hours worth of homework and five hours of sleep (if you're lucky) every night.

But no matter how different your goals are and how diverse the paths laid out in front of you may be, they all have something in common: whether or not you are motivated to keep going and how far you are willing to go.

Recently, I stumbled across a blog written by a music producer named Michael Beinhorn, titled, "The Work Ethic and Breeding Stillborn Artists."

Beinhorn has most notably worked with the band Soundgarden on their most popular album, "Superunknown." As it was related to my favorite band and favorite singer, of course I had to read it.

Based on his time with the

band's lead singer, Chris Cornell, in the studio, he recounts how Cornell used to come in and sing for as long as eight hours, only stopping when his head started to hurt.

Any time something didn't sound right to him, he would immediately speak up and re-record a song over and over until he was satisfied. In order to build up his voice, he would actually scream at the top of his lungs until the screaming turned into a musical pitch. The result of this intense work was one of the most successful rock albums of the 1990's.

In my case, my sessions involved staring a computer screen down for six hours straight just to get one segment of a video right, my fingers typing and clicking away until they became sore.

If a project meant a lot to me, I would stay up until 4 a.m. to finish it. Yes, I am a perfectionist, but in my defense, so was Cornell in 1993.

Obviously, not everyone can relate, but those who are just as compelled to reach their goals most likely share the same amount

of determination. Many singers, artists, businessmen and women, filmmakers, have all stared down a similar cliff, wondering whether or not to jump, to take that leap of faith, knowing the risks but wanting so badly to get back to the top on the other side.

However, what happens when they realize there's a safety net at the bottom of the cliff?

Hence another "stillborn artist." Beinhorn argues that too many children have become coddled and therefore can never reach their full potential knowing that they have a crutch. If the work they need to accomplish in order to achieve their goals becomes too difficult, they know they can depend on either a plan B or other people to do the rest of the work.

How can a person reach their full potential if they're willing to give up easily? Like Beinhorn asked, what if someone like Cornell had been told he did not have to try as hard as he did?

I do have a safety net, and I am fully aware of it. And that safety net can easily cost me my motivation. If a career in film editing becomes too hard, I

could resort to a plan B, which is another potentially high-paying job that I may not love but that helps pay the bills... or my future student loans.

But I am still just as motivated as I was when I was 15-years-old to become a film editor, maybe even a skilled and respected one. I don't expect to win any Oscars, of course, but I would like to do what I love for a good part of my life.

And that's why a safety net is not always a bad thing. There is a possibility of crashing hard, down to the very bottom of a hole that will take so much time to climb out of. Whatever you plan to do in life, you need a safety net, but if you become too comfortable when you land, you will never want to climb back up and try again.

You may never reach the other side, and you may never truly be as happy as you were when you had a dream in mind. So do not be afraid to take a leap of faith... or two or three. I promise it will be worth it in the end.

Student from page 1

the recruiters on the website so future students know a familiar face to contact. All the staff will have a biography and a list of high schools they work with.

"I want them to know if they are interested they know who to contact right from the beginning, and to start building relationships," Morris said. "We have so much to offer but it can be overwhelming."

He admits, financial aid will always be a little harder part of the process than the rest. He is working hard to figure out what are the largest obstacles in the process. All three deans wanted open discussion on the application process.

Many members of student government spoke about it being hard to find the second step of what to do with all the information given after they received their acceptance letter. Morris felt like the admissions page was very well done, but

needed more information to tell students what they need to do between acceptance and new student orientation.

His team is hoping by after winter break to have a page just for admitted students. It will have information about the My JJC portal and other resources.

Farmer wanted to know if students wanted a text or email to receive information about scheduling. Most student government members said they would like to keep it through the mail. Member Jefferson Cherrington gave the idea to let the student opt into if they rather want email or text.

"We have a lot of information, it's just getting it into the right bite-sizing," Cherrington said.

Next up to discuss her department was Kaysen Luzbetak. Her department focuses on pathways for students. When the process starts with the career counseling service, it's important



Photo by Meghan Blenck

Secretary Josh Hancock, Treasurer Thomas Gonzalez, Public Relations Chair Maxwell Scott Schroeder, and guest Hafiz Ahmed take part in session.

to know plan B. Once that is figured out, it is much easier to make an academic plan. She also is in charge of disability services.

She also shared information about Trio, and office of multicultural student affairs.

"Student success really is being able to tell our story through a series of connection and opportunities that make all of you unique but with one main goal," Luzbetak said. "We expect every seat at graduation to be full, and if that doesn't happen do you know what happens the next day? There's conversations."

She mentioned the changes that will occur in academic advising. She says students always need more help with advising. This lead to the way the school works with First Year experience. She says the goal is to have every student to have an academic plan. They are also moving parts of counseling into that area as well.

"Every fall we see about 3,000

new students and in spring about 1,000 new students. We know coming in the door in the fall we need to be ready and over-prepare. So we will be changing in how we do the initial advising, and expand in groups," Luzbetak says.

This will be done with virtual advising; it's not so much connecting with a person but getting the information in general.

Vice President Rebecca Ashbacher spoke about the need to have more advisers that know certain career paths so students take classes they know will go toward their degrees.

The last initiative that Farmer shared was about hiring a new dean for academic intervention and support.

Student government meets Thursdays at 3 p.m. in A-1002.



Photo by Meghan Blenck

Dr. Angela Kaysen-Luzbetak, Dean of Student Success, Robert Morris, Dean of Enrollment Management, and Dr. Yolanda Farmer, Vice President of Student Development attend the meeting.

JJC welcomes speaker Rebecca Fyffe

By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

On Oct. 18, the JJC Business Club and Student Government held a session with keynote speaker, Rebecca Fyffe, who was named Small Business Person of the Year for 2018 this past April.

Fyffe owns and is the director of research for a local pest control company situated in Schaumburg called Landmark Pest Management. She spoke for an hour with prospering business majors, taking them through her journey from a struggling high school student to a successful, hard-working business owner.

From the time she knew she wanted a career in business, she focused on one thing: knowledge. Throughout the session, she told students that she volunteered whenever opportunities came up for her to learn about the art of owning a business.

She considers Hedy Ratner, the founder of the Women's Business Development Center, as her mentor whom Fyffe met at a young age. She also cites

her work with former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn on the moratorium for the death penalty, which was abolished in 2011, where she feels she gained a lot more experience that would help further her career later in life.

During the one-hour session, she continued to mention other sources of inspiration for both her and her colleagues. She encouraged students to research as much as she did, also citing several self-help books such as Atul Gawande's "The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right" and Simon Sinek's "Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't."

In 2001, at age 25, Fyffe took over Landmark Pest Management and became the youngest CEO of a pest control company in the country. At the time, the company was struggling, with only 18 full-time employees, but six months ago, when she was named Small Business Person of the Year, their staff had increased to 70 full-time employees. Now, that number has reached 90.

Fyffe has also admitted that it

was even harder as a woman to build herself up. Not only is the pest business primarily consisted of men, but she faced sexual harassment and belittling in the workplace before she started her own company. However, she herself is an example of why women should not be discouraged from pursuing their own business goals. Eventually, she found her own way around the male-dominated industry and subsequently took a separate path to prove herself.

"It's impossible to replace her," says her colleague, Matt Kostalek, who accompanied Fyffe to this session, because she not only has complete control and knowledge of the company but also possesses an unrelenting work ethic.

"You know how you'll read about people who are able to balance their work and their lives? I [could never do that]," she jokes. "I have worked non-stop."

She goes on to talk about her constant attempts to build her company even more and her efforts to collaborate with her

employees of all positions and backgrounds. However, she has admitted to students that out of all of the challenges she has faced, her biggest one was merging her company with another of a very different culture. Every day, she works to turn her small business into a much larger one.

"[We're] working for something greater than ourselves," explains Fyffe. Even when asked about her own achievements, she rarely ever uses the word "I" when referring to her career. She considers the number of talented people who have supported her as part of the reason she is so successful because, in her words, "they care as much as I do."

Despite a very impressive year for her, she is always looking toward the future.

"My fantasy is that someone will come in with [bags of money]," Fyffe says, laughing, when asked by an eager business student about her hopes for her company. "We want to expand, but we don't really know how to do it... Dominating [our] marketplace is [the] #1 goal."

Even though she is honest about these struggles, Landmark Pest Management has begun to do just that. It is currently offering internships to aspiring business owners or managers and according to the Chicago Sun-Times has recently expanded to locations in Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri.

"We look for people who have [distinct] backgrounds," she explains, regarding her process for hiring new employees. For example, that can include a similar level of experience as her colleague Kostalek, whose work with fungi and mushrooms has allowed him to understand pest control and who has major engineering experience as well through his work with AT&T.

She also says she is "committed to evening the plane" to include not only people who can do multiple jobs, but also people of all ages, genders, economic backgrounds, and more. Since facing severe misogyny in her industry, she has emphasized her desire to give women the chance that she could only create for herself.



Traffic accident and property damage

An Illinois State Citation was issued to Ariana Guzman for failing to reduce speed to avoid an accident. The accident took place Oct. 9 at the corner of Cwiklo Lane and Houbolt road. According to police, Guzman collided with the back of another car as she failed to notice that traffic had come to a stop while changing lanes. Her car was towed due to extensive damage while the other car had damage to the rear bumper, but was driveable.

Expired license, registration and traffic accident

Luis E. Camacho was issued three Illinois State Citations following an accident in the JJC Main Campus parking lot on Oct. 15. According to police, Camacho attempted to back out across handicap parking spaces and accidentally struck a parked vehicle. He was charged with driving with an expired driver's license, driving with an expired registration sticker, and for improper backing up.

Hit-and-run: Parked car struck in East Lot 2

The driver of a car backed into another car in East Lot 2 on Oct. 15 at 5:04 p.m., damaging the second vehicle. Police, however, do not have the make of the car that struck the other vehicle. According to police, the driver of the first vehicle apparently left a note on the windshield of the second vehicle. Along with the note, \$21 in singles was left. Police used camera footage of the accident but could not get a clear look at the offending vehicle.

Dual from page 1

reimbursement of the payment if they choose to attend Joliet Junior College 15 months after graduating high school. It will be given to the student as scholarship.

At the meeting, both representatives from the Plainfield and Coal City school districts were opposed to the fee. Plainfield school district 202 says the reason they opposed was because of the extra cost to their students.

"I think it ended up good compromise. Originally it started off as \$160, then to \$80, and then

finally lowered it more. I think it will be good because it will put dual credit is up to the standards of where they need to be, and that students can come here prepared," Alonso Rodriguez, student trustee, said.

Kittle says the colleges main goal is to get students that were enrolled in the dual credit classes to become students at the high school after graduation.

Students who partake in the free or reduced lunch programs do not have to pay for the course. Students in vocational centers will not have to pay the fee. High

school students in vocational centers also will not have to pay the fee.

JJC will be following this in example of the Dual Credit Quality Act. The act was initiated on Aug. 23 but will go into effect Jan 1. of 2019. It is a 2-year trial to see how many students will be paying and if the enrollment stays the same.

"I've been in dual credit classes since I was a freshman," Jefferson Cherrington, student government member, said. "I'm happier they lowered it to \$50 but I'm still not happy it was a graduated rate

over time. It can be more of a risk than an award for students. I get why we are doing it, but I feel like we will lose some people. In my particular demographic, we are the kind that are right above financial aid but we are to poor for anything else."

Taking dual credit classes during a students high school career has many benefits, including getting many general education classes out of the way and guaranteeing a fast track to graduation.

Overall, this situation may cause students to be unable to

attend dual credit classes from now on due to the cost. It is also unknown if the price will rise in the future. On the other hand, it may be helpful in assisting our teachers to teach at a higher standard and give students great education.

It also encourages students to attend JJC after graduating high school, giving JJC a chance to recover from the slight enrollment slump it's currently going through right now.

JJC Planetarium Schedule 2018-2019

All shows at The Herbert F. Trackman Planetarium are free and open to the public for all ages. Seating is first come first serve. The shows typically last one hour and involve a trip though the current skies using the OmniStar digital projector and conclude with a Q&A session. For more information go to JJC.edu.

*Designed for the very young astronomer

<u>Nov. 15th</u> <u>@ 6:30pm</u> The Little Star that Could*	<u>Nov. 29th</u> <u>@ 6:30pm</u> Two Small Pieces of Glass	<u>Dec. 13th</u> <u>@ 6:30pm</u> Story of the Christmas Star
<u>Nov. 20th</u> <u>@ 7:30pm</u> Two Small Pieces of Glass	<u>Dec. 4th</u> <u>@ 7:30pm</u> Story of the Christmas Star	<u>Dec. 16th</u> <u>@ 2pm</u> Story of the Christmas Star

Come and explore the wonders of the space

Taking back comedy one laugh at a time

By Lauren Bulow
Copy Editor

About three years ago, JJC lost a beloved club: the JJC Comedy Club. However, local stand-up comedian, Ryan Rimpson, is on a quest to reinstate the club and bring comedy back to JJC.

A comedy club at JJC would

incredibly important to students starting comedy. At club meetings, students will be encouraged to share their materials and fellow club members could give critiques and throw around ideas to each other.

At the end of each month, the comedy club will host a show that will display the local talent and

make audience members laugh.

"Comedy is part of every culture, and it would be awesome to get this club started and spread laughter through JJC," Rimpson says.

"If you tickle somebody's soul the right way, I'm sure they'll laugh."

Rimpson encourages student

comedians to reach out to him through social media to get more information. He also urges students to sign his petition to start the club.

"I believe if I could get a hundred signatures on a piece of paper it would mean that a hundred people still believe in laughter, and the way society is

- we really, really need laughter. Even if you don't join the club, it would mean that you still support comedy at JJC."

So please be sure to reach out to Ryan Rimpson on Facebook if you like the idea of a comedy club here at JJC!

Helps from page 1

from JJC, will also be engaged in the project to protect and bring back bees and other pollinators.

Perkins herself came across the grant opportunity online and worked exclusively with JJC's Grant writer Kate Coughlin on writing the grant. She provided information to the program, such as why they needed a larger pollinator habitat, how they could provide care for the environment, and where they would plant.

According to the grant, she officially proposed to plant a 1.6 acre site as a native species wildflower garden in order to act as a pollinator forage zone for JJC's six beehives. It was also to be a demonstration plot for educating the horticulture program at JJC.

JJC established the six beehives over three years ago, and plan to install more in the future.

In order to bring education and raise importance and awareness of pollinator health, the garden would be used for long-term education of pollinator health and creating diverse ecosystems.

But this program will not be fast. It is a three-year process, with the plot being sown just this past summer. The first year will begin with controlling the existing vegetation, lightly till the ground to prepare for planting, irrigate water, planting the seeds,

and more. The second and third year will consist of controlling the non-native invasive species, irrigating water and trimming plants.

By doing this, Perkins says that they hope to establish native plants (such as perennials) to provide food throughout the season for bees and other pollinators. Students and the community will be able to use the site for education.

The project will also cut down on JJC being required to mow large parts of the landlab, which is harmful to the environment, and will result in using less resources such as water and time.

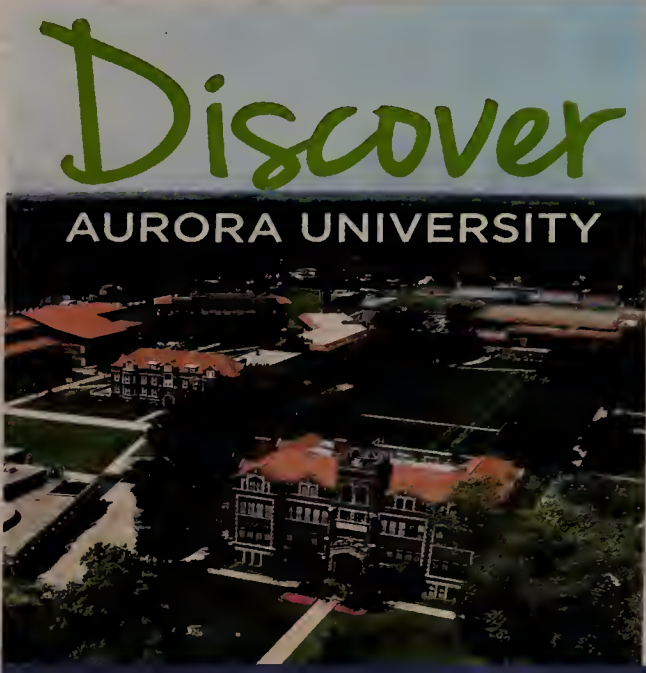
Perkins says that by not moving, it is a "great labor and energy saver for the landlab."

Located west of the JJC greenhouse, the landlab serves as an outdoor learning lab for horticulture students and anyone else in the community who is interested.

"The landlab is where landscape students do construction and landscaping projects, vegetables for the JJC CSA are grown, [is the] site of 500 grapevines, an agroforestry plot and six beehives," says Perkins.

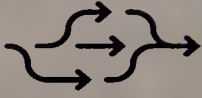
The college consists of multiple natural spaces, the landlab, the arboretum, and farmed crops. These are all used

"Bees, native and honey bees are important pollinators. Other insects are as well. Maintaining their populations is important for fruit, vegetable and seed production,"
-Lisa Perkins



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to benefit student and community learning. Currently, the college grounds themselves range from multiple acres of mowed turf, an oak forest, and 140 acres of land cropped in soybeans and corn.

It may be questioned why the bees are in such dire need of our help. Even though there are other pollinators in the world, bees are the most effective pollinators according to the website Friends of the Earth. They say that bees visit many more flowers and plants and carry more pollen, making them the most effective pollinators in the world.

We need bees. That's for sure. They are the key to the diets that we all know and love today, and keep the cycle of life turning for everyone. We rely on pollination for much of our food that we eat everyday.

"Bees, native and honey bees are important pollinators. Other

insects are as well. Maintaining their populations is important for fruit, vegetable and seed production," Perkins says.

Honeybees are currently in danger of going extinct. This is due to multiple reasons, such as a loss of their habitats and pesticides. According to the Feed A Bee website, the honeybees specifically play an important role of pollinating our fruits, nuts and vegetables, and we should all do our part to help them thrive.

Being important pollinators of campus crops, as well as being extensive tools for learning for students and the community, the honeybees are vital.

JJC offers beekeeper workshops throughout the year to encourage people to care more about the beehives. They believe that honeybees are extremely important, and they are essential to improve agronomic practices

in order for there to be enough food for the earth.

Perkins encourages students that are interested in working outdoors and who love to work with plants to seek out JJC's horticulture program. It is a broad program, including landscape, construction, arboriculture, floriculture, fruit and vegetable farming, sports turf management, and even more.

"It is a sustainable and hands-on field of study that impacts everyone," Perkins acknowledges.

Three billion wildflowers have been planted since 2015 by the Feed A Bee program. Just last year, Bayer Bee Care Program initiated a 50-state forage initiative, resulting in them now almost reaching their goal, involving 47 states and Washington D.C. currently.

Event to host speakers for aspiring filmmakers

By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

JJC's Wolfpack Productions Video Club will be collaborating with the CIOS department and Joliet's production company Road 2 Eternity to host a "Face to Face with the Media Industry" event on Nov. 15 in the U-auditorium from 4:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event will sponsor several keynote speakers who have firsthand experience in the media industry, such as producers, writers, directors, editors, engineers, and other job positions involved in film and video-making.

"These are the people that will tell you it's possible [to work and grow in this industry]," says producer Sheila White, who works at Road 2 Eternity, which has

helped many aspiring filmmakers in the area gain experience through their internship program. "There are so many opportunities in the Chicagoland area [that most people don't know about]."

Through this seminar, White and Wolfpack adviser Shelly LaFevers hope to inform students about the many possibilities that the local community has for aspiring filmmakers.

This event is open to all JJC students and digital media students in the community, including high school students.

Several members of Road 2 Eternity, including President and former Wolfpack member Michael White, director and producer Gerald Hall, Chief Engineer T.C. Hill, director, producer, and writer Cortez Mack, behind-the-scenes expert

Lawrence Johnson, and many other executives working in the media industry plan to attend and give students a "bird's eye view" of what their careers are like and give students a peek at a normal day in their profession.

After each speech, there will be a Q&A for students to ask questions and be able to get to know professionals that not only will give them a firsthand look at their individual jobs but also give them opportunities to get started in the business.

"There is a lot to learn, so we're bringing [the industry experience] to our hometown of Joliet," Sheila White continues. "It's so exciting... and this is the type of conference where [students will] be able to discover the power within themselves."



Sign where the pollinator habitat is located. Photo by Jessica Mack

Psych class wears blue for suicide awareness

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

On Oct. 12, Jamey DiVietro, Professor of Psychology, Social & Behavioral Sciences Department, invited his students to wear blue in support of suicide awareness.

Two students, Serena Schoonveld and Anna Bach, decided they wanted to have a "Blue Day," and DiVietro supported it. The two students had recently lost a friend from high school to suicide, and wanted to increase awareness for everyone.

Bach said DiVietro told her and Schoonveld to choose a color to coordinate in class to dedicate it to awareness.

"The colors for suicide awareness are turquoise, purple and yellow. The color that our town was wearing for our friend was blue. We thought it felt right to do blue so it related to our friend and it still could be connected to suicide awareness through turquoise-blue," says Bach.

When DiVietro told his other classes they were going to wear blue and have a "Blue Day," they got involved as well.

Schoonveld and Bach were both extremely happy that the classes all participated.

Bach says, "I was glad that my friend [Schoonveld] and I were able to make an impact bigger than just our class. Hearing that people in other classes participated as well was a nice feeling."



Professor Jamey DiVietro poses with one of his psychology classes wearing blue for suicide awareness.

Photo courtesy of Jamey DiVietro

By participating in this event, DiVietro said they are hoping to save lives.

"Maybe someone who has been thinking about suicide saw that there are other people out there experiencing this, and it helped them decide to get help. Or maybe someone's parents saw our post on Facebook and decided to pay closer attention to something their son or daughter was going through. To me, that's what this was all about: to let people know this is a serious problem, and that there are resources out there for help if needed," DiVietro says.

DeVietro was a counselor before he began to teach psychology, and he has seen many cases, especially college students, struggle with depression and/or suicidal thoughts.

DeVietro says, "The statistics are mind boggling: One person commits suicide in the US every 12 minutes."

According to DiVietro, no one is "safe" from suicide. It affects us all, no matter what culture, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and orientation. There are resources out there if needed for students, and this is something we

should all be taking seriously.

According to DoSomething.org, around two thirds of people who commit suicide are depressed at the time of their deaths. Depression that is untreated, undiagnosed or ineffectively treated is the number 1 cause of suicide.

Bach wants people to know that suicide is serious, and it affects more than just the victim. "That person's friends, family, classmates, coworkers, etc. are left behind and they suffer. Younger kids are being exposed to this sort of culture where

suicide and depression is idolized and I don't think it's right to take this subject lightly."

If you have a friend or loved one talking about suicide, call the suicide hotline and get more information to get your friend help, or even talk to a counselor. Don't leave it unnoticed; get them help immediately.

Schoonveld says that suicide is a problem and it shouldn't be. Talk to people and get help immediately.

"This isn't something you have to deal with by yourself," DeVietro says.

Running from supernatural at Haunted 5K

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

Runners ran for the prize at the fifth annual Haunted 5k, which took place on Oct. 21 at the JJC main campus.

In addition to the 5k run, there was a one mile Monster Dash available for children under 12.

The race was a great success, according to Carolyn Anderson, alumni relations and annual fund manager. The Event Center at JJC was used to provide opportunities

for families to "have a snack and participate in the kids activities put on by OSA."

The weather was ideal and cooperated, resulting in a great run. There were 364 registered participants with 27 people registered for the Monster Dash, and 337 people registered for the 5k run.

These numbers, according to Anderson, are the same as they were in 2017.

The post-race party included snacks of a wide variety, provided

from sponsors Hometown Vending and Peter Rubi Produce. Pepsi donated water for the event, while TCYB provided yogurt for participants. On top of all of this, the JJC Alumni Association sponsored donuts on a stick from Homecut Donuts for all participants of the event.

According to Anderson, the Prairie State Road Runners, Channahon Minooka Run Club, and the Inwood Run Club were victorious in the team participation with 41 runners.

Gabriella McCollom, 13, placed first for females and overall finished 15th in the race. Patrick Letz, 23, placed first for males and overall finished first as well in the race.

Proceeds from the event benefit JJC scholarships and the Athletics Department.

Anderson encourages staff, students, alumni and the community to participate in the event. If they did, it would broaden what the JJC Foundation can do for our student population

regarding scholarships and other opportunities available.

"We are already busy planning for 2019, [and] we are eager to bring new, fun and innovative ideas to the run, along with additional activities for families."

This is a great event for anyone who loves to run for a great cause, and it's a great way for the community to come together. They hope to see even more eager runners for 2019.



The start of the 2018 Haunted 5K.

Photo courtesy of JJC.edu



Kim Oliver placed 2nd in the female age group 45-49.

Photo courtesy of JJC.edu

Things get spooky at JJC

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

Double, double, toil and trouble; candies eaten and many get into trouble!

On Oct. 26, the JJC Collegiate Club Council, and other clubs who serve on the committee, hosted Trunk or Treat for everyone. This included faculty, students, organizations, children and more.

This year, there were 21 cars and trucks available. These held multiple games and themes for everyone to enjoy.

At the event, there was face painting, treat-enjoying, games, contests, and so much more!

Multiple clubs along with the JJC Collegiate Club Council planned and collaborated it along with Student Activities, Amy Sims and Chris Ulreich.

According to Director of Student Activities Pam Dilday, during the event this year, there was some friendly competition

between departments to get candy for the event, but still were required to buy some when the participant number kept rising.

Dilday says that this year there were over 1500 participants. The event has grown significantly since last year with a staggering increase from 300 people.

"We know we [even] missed some who entered at the opposite end of the event instead of where we had our counter stationed," says Dilday.

They also had assistance from Facility Services to set up the event, pumpkin pick up, tables, chairs, and anything else requiring help. Communications and External Relations did publicity on Facebook and the JJC website to get the word out for this years Trunk or Treat.

Campus police allowed police cars to be present, fire science brought out the fire truck, media took photos, Environmental Health and Safety came to assist, and many other departments

helped out.

Dilday says this brought together the community in its own way.

Last year was the first year Trunk or Treat was ever held at JJC. The idea was taken from a Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), which is located in St. Louis. They held a successful Trunk or Treat, becoming a "huge community event for their college," says Dilday.

"Amy and Chris put their own spin on it here but last year the weather was cold and windy and we only had about 300 participants," Dilday said.

Dilday says that "...it was it was a collaborative effort and a huge success thanks to [Sims and Ulreich's] hard work!"

This year, the results were phenomenal, and the school hopes to continue the tradition every year. It's a great way to get the community to come together before winter properly sets in and have fun doing it.



Photo courtesy of Pam Dilday
One of the many trunks decorated for the event.



Photo courtesy of Pam Dilday
The JJC Green House decorated a trunk.



Many of the trunks decorated for Trunk or treat on Oct. 26.

Photo courtesy of Pam Dilday

Press Pause hosts a sweet treat

By Lauren Bulow

Copy Editor

Pies and cookies and cupcakes, oh my!

Press Pause held their bake sale on the JJC bridge Oct. 23. They had tables piled high with an expansive array of fresh baked goods that could make any mouth water!

"Press Pause is an advocacy group for mental health awareness. We are not a counselling group, we try to educate others about mental health and spread the awareness of it and how it is a problem and what we can do to fix certain problems. If any student has an issue we help them seek out the right resources." says dedicated Press Pause member, Joseph Brauer, who was manning one of the tables.

Each member of Press Pause brought something to the bake

sale. Whether it was home-made or bought, everyone contributed.

"My dad made the pumpkin pie, he makes it every year! My dad is obsessed with fall and I thought it would be cool to share the festivities with everyone else," Brauer said, motioning towards the slices of pie for sale at \$1 each (a real steal for how good it was).

Press Pause does a bake sale every semester to raise money for the club to help them spread awareness and host events for the students at JJC. "We're saving our funds for our huge event next semester where we go all out. Last year we had a panel we all dressed up, and a lot of clubs set up tables, too!"

Keep your eyes and ears open for Press Pause's big event next semester and be sure to visit their bake sale next semester if you want some quality desserts!



Members of Press Pause at the bakesale on Oct. 23.

Photo by Lauren Bulow

'The Haunting of Hill House' is more than just a ghost story

By **Jessica Mack**
Co-Editor

"The Haunting of Hill House" is a spectacular, yet long, series. It is your run-of-the-mill haunted ghost story, but it also involves our main characters' ghosts of the past.

The Netflix series is directed by Mike Flanagan, introducing to the viewers 10 roughly one-hour long episodes.

Throughout the series we see the future and the present, sometimes going back and forth between both. It can be a bit confusing when you just start watching, as I really didn't know what was going on at first. But as the episode went on it started to make a lot more sense.

I'll preface this by saying I hate scary movies. When I was 10-years-old, I couldn't even watch "Jurassic Park." And although "The Haunting of Hill House" starts off seeming to be another horror film that I'd have to hide under the covers from, it easily

became one of my favorite shows of all time.

First of all, the characters - and their respective actors - are so human it hurts. They each deal with their own difficulties in the world and with the reminiscent hauntings of the house. Nell, the youngest and one of the twins, sees the Bent-Neck Lady throughout her life, causing a traumatic upbringing and a kind of sleep paralysis that continues on into her adulthood. Luke, the other twin, is haunted by the Floating Man which causes him to become an addict later in life to escape the images

of the Floating Man which makes the rest of the family distant from him.

Theo is "sensitive" to people when she touches them, so she wears gloves and long-sleeved shirts to combat this. In my opinion, Theo is the best character of this show by far as she can see and feel pain when she touches a body, and she's just so real. Watch the show and you'll see what I mean.

Steven, the oldest, uses his families stories (he was not there to see the horrors that everyone else saw) to make his famous novel, causing a rift between

him and the family. Shirley is the second-born of the family and has to have control of everything in her life.

Throughout the series, we see each of the children come to terms with themselves and their personalities and faults. While I wish I could tell you the specifics, I don't want to spoil you.

Their mother begins to become influenced by the house, causing her to want to kill the twins (Luke and Nell) in order to preserve their youth and innocence in the house. The best part about this show is

that you already know what has happened due to the time skips in episodes and between episodes, but you still want to know the why and how it happened.

The show itself is inspired, but not derived completely, from the book "The Haunting of Hill House (1959)" written by the famous Shirley Jackson. Stephen King, the legend himself, has even gone so far as to call the show as "a work of genius."

While I say in the beginning that this is technically a horror movie, it is more of a story of a family learning to combat their own ghosts mostly, but I guess

combating regular ghosts a little too. But I do recommend preparing yourself for a few episodes, as the jump-scares can really scare your socks off as they did mine.

All-in-all, if you have 10 hours or more to spend watching a show, I truly recommend binge watching this show. You won't regret it.



Photo courtesy of themighty.com

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Photo courtesy of exerto.com

'Black ops 4' has tech issues, still a fun experience for players

By Justin Mazurkiewicz

Staff Writer

"Call of Duty" is back with another installment in the series. After less than stellar feedback from "Infinite Warfare" and "World War 2," "Black Ops 4" brings an interesting combination of new and old elements to its gameplay.

For the first time, "Call of Duty" has omitted having a sort of story mode. This is usually a staple of the series with having a decent sort single player mode that the player could play offline.

With games moving more and more to being completely online, this wouldn't come as a surprise that the developers moved more of their assets towards more of the online games. The irony in all of this is that as of the first few weeks of the game being released, the servers have been running at a terrible speed, causing many people to experience lag and other issues when trying to play online.

For most, this can even be enough to stop playing, and with almost all of the gameplay coming from online services, and "Black Ops 4" doesn't give the player much freedom if they want to play offline.

The gameplay itself, however, is great. The new battle royale mode called Blackout is a great edition to the game. It very much has the feel of a game like "Player

Unknown's Battlegrounds," but much more polished. For people who like battle royales, this game mode is great. Multiplayer has some interesting elements.

Multiplayer includes the usual modes of gameplay, but with some more tactical pieces. If a player takes damage, they have to use a healing syringe to heal. This gives the player the dilemma of either pushing forward at the risk of dying since they have lower health or being more defensive and healing.

The player also has 150 health compared to the usual health in order to increase the time to kill. This does not mesh well with the "Call of Duty" style and feels like more ammo is being wasted trying to kill just one player.

This could refer back to the fact that the servers are being throttled, but it feels like it takes a lot of hits to take out an enemy. Simple modes like Team Deathmatch are a lot more frustrating to play because of this. Overall, the multiplayer can still be better if the developers continue to do some tweaks and fix the servers.

Zombies is currently at its best in "Black Ops 4." Off the bat there are three maps and a fourth if you have preordered the game. The game play is the usual and simple zombies, but with a lot of different twists.

Players can now pick what four perks they can get in the



Photo courtesy of trendsinternational.com

game instead of whatever shows up on the map. This being a really unique experience, the team can use these different perks to form different play styles.

There are also custom matches where players can make it as easy or as hard as they want and have a blast. Zombies caters to both the hardcore and casual players who want to enjoy zombies.

Overall, "Black Ops 4" brings a lot to the table that makes "Call of Duty" a fun experience again. I would recommend getting this game when it goes on sale for Black Friday. By then, most of the server issues should be fixed and multiplayer should be a lot more balanced.

JJC Upcoming Fine Art Events

Theater

Nov. 15-17

'Unnecessary Farce'

Directed by Tammy Perkins

7:30 p.m.

Theater

Nov. 18

'Unnecessary Farce'

Directed by Tammy Perkins

2 p.m.

Art Gallery

Nov. 16-30

JJC Area High School Art Exhibition

Concert

Nov. 28

Student Recital

12 p.m.

Concert

Nov. 30

Jingle and Jazz Concert

7:30 p.m.

Art Gallery

Dec. 1-9

JJC Area High School Art Exhibition

Prices

Concerts

\$5 General Public

\$4 Faculty, Seniors and Staff

\$2 Students

Theater

\$8 General Public

\$5 Faculty, Seniors and Staff

\$3 Students

Gallery

Free and open to the public



Photo courtesy of Forbes.com

'Halloween' late sequel lives up to the name

By Matt Zalatoris

Staff Writer

Michael Myers returns again, and what a time for it as we are in the Halloween mood.

This installment is different from the countless other ones. This is a direct sequel to the original Halloween that was released 40 years ago. So anything between then and now in this franchise no longer exists.

For some fans that may hurt a little; for others it may be a blessing.

With this in mind, we launch into this story as we find that Michael has been locked up all these years and has not spoken since.

Two podcasters decide to visit

Michael for a piece, bringing his notorious mask with them (because that is such a great idea). Eventually, he breaks out after his bus transfer goes wrong and kills the two podcasters - which is what happens when you take the guys mask.

Michael then proceeds to head back to Haddonfield to kill the girl that escaped him 40 years ago, Laurie Strode. Ever since the events of Halloween night, Laurie has been a nervous wreck prepping her house in an almost nuclear blast type of way awaiting the day that Michael finally comes home. This has caused a bit of a rift towards Laurie and her daughter, Karen, who views her mother as crazy for preparing their house so much.

Anyone who has heard of Michael Myers knows that he kills people in a rather entertaining way, and this film, as you may guess, is no different. The kills throughout this movie (don't worry I won't spoil it for you) are great in that they build tension throughout the movie.

Some of the kills are not even seen on-screen, while others are not quite as gory as you would think in a film like this. Don't worry for you gore fans, the later part of the film will be pretty satisfying. There is a really great sequence that kicks off Michaels killing spree.

Now for the big question: is this film a worthy sequel to the original film? I think most people would agree that this is the best

Halloween movie since the original.

That really is not saying much as there has not been any amazing breakthroughs since the original. It does a good job of making constant references to the original, which was nice for Halloween fans. These references are not just in dialogue but also in camera work as we see Michael go about his work from outside homes as he is seen in windows.

The ending is not quite as well done as you would expect, but again, no spoilers. In terms of a films in of itself it is exactly what you would expect in a slasher-horror type of movie.

However, considering the magnitude of this movie

considering it is the "actual" sequel to what some may consider a masterpiece in the horror genre, it had big shoes to fill. For Halloween fans, it was a welcome form of nostalgia, bringing fans back to the thrills of this franchise the first time they saw it back in the 1970's with a modern twist on it.

Jamie Lee Curtis does a good job of reprising her role as she plays a broken down version of Laurie who still suffers mentally from her encounter with Michael. So with all this in mind I would recommend this movie if you enjoy the Halloween movie or just the horror genre as it does a good job of recapturing the glory of the original.



Photo courtesy of imdb.com
Actress Jamie Lee Curtis in 'Halloween' released in 1978.



Photo courtesy of imdb.com
40 years later, Curtis in the 2018 movie 'Halloween'.

Greta Van Fleet: peace, love and rock 'n' roll

By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

It's no secret that rock music has been lying dormant for a while. While pop and hip-hop have been dominating the charts now more than ever, new rock music tends to be cast aside lately.

Enter Greta Van Fleet: a young and hungry new band who released their debut studio album, "Anthem of the Peaceful Army" on Oct. 19. And just this week, their new album hit #1 on the Billboard 200, debuting at #3 when it was first released.

Having formed in 2012 in a small town in Michigan when they were just in high school, Greta Van Fleet consists of 22-year-old twins Josh and Jake Kiszka, 19-year-old bassist and younger brother Sam Kiszka, and 19-year-old drummer Danny Wagner.

They were signed to Lava Records in March of 2017 and released their first EP, "Black Smoke Rising," in April that year. Just a year earlier, one of their very first singles, "Highway Tune," was featured on the Showtime hit series, "Shameless," which sparked a small amount of attention from

listeners.

In November 2017, the band released a second EP, "From the Fires." The double album consisted of the four songs on "Black Smoke Rising" with four brand-new songs. The single "Safari Song" received a significant amount of radio play along with "Highway Tune," which gave the band a small cult following months before the release of "Anthem of the Peaceful Army."

Now, Greta Van Fleet is the band everyone is talking about, earning praise and garnering criticism at the same time. Since the release of their first single, many listeners allege that the band carries a strong Led Zeppelin sound, some even going so far as to say they are a "tribute band" or "copycats."

While there is no denying their '70s style and influences, to simply dismiss them as another band feeding off previous rock stars' success (as some critical reviews have implied) would completely disregard the band's true effort to resurrect the spirit and energy of hard rock that so many other bands have either abandoned or ignored.

Plainly speaking: it just sounds really, really good, so who cares?

"Anthem of the Peaceful

Army" is truly a gem of an album for 2018. As a fan of '70s rock music myself, it's invigorating to see a band modernize the genre and the decade. Right from the beginning, Greta Van Fleet injects you with the same amount of energy they most likely had while writing the songs.

The first track, "Age of Man," is a solid start, building itself and the listener up from a beautiful melody to jolting hard rock. On top of that, the band also subtly addresses their Led Zeppelin influence within the first verse by including the line, "Land of ice and snow" from the famous 1970 tune "Immigrant Song."

The nudge-nudge-wink-wink nature of this just proves that Greta Van Fleet are here to have fun and are aware of but are less concerned about who they may or may not sound like than their listeners. Well played, boys.

Admittedly, songs like "The Cold Wind" and "Lover, Leaver (Taker, Believer)" pay homage to their supposed heroes of a previous generation, while the potential sleeper - and a personal favorite song of mine - "Watching Over" also incorporates some psychedelia in the mix. The soft and slow ballad "You're The One" and the more mellow "The New Day" is a personal reminder

of Heart and the Wilson sisters with their similar light-hearted acoustics.

And of course, this wouldn't be a proper review unless I talked about the hit single, "When the Curtain Falls." Hearing it on the radio more times than I've actually heard the album, I have to say that each time it comes on is just as fun as the last.

I'll admit, it may not be my absolute favorite from the album, but it definitely stands out. Lyrically, the song evokes images of a Hollywood movie star/diva, and musically, its speedy guitar solo and funky bass line can easily keep you moving until the end. Every band member has their chance to shine in this song, and they clearly take advantage of it.

The remainder of "Anthem of the Peaceful Army," specifically the tracks "Mountain of the Sun," "Brave New World," and "Anthem," literally and figuratively complete the record. The first of these three, much like "You're The One," is a sweet love song that also appeals to their fascination with nature, while "Brave New World" is another stand-out piece due to its surprisingly more down-tuned instrumentation, demonstrating that the band may have more

tricks up its sleeve than listeners might realize. Finally, the latter track allows the album to musically come full circle, as it ends with yet another irresistible acoustic melody.

Throughout the entire album, the songs all tend to have a similar sound, but singer Josh Kiszka's wailing and unrelenting vocals as well as Jake Kiszka's electrifying (no pun intended) solos undoubtedly keep it interesting.

After hearing this, even if they continue to have cynical critics by their next album, it goes without saying that this band is going to go far. If they possess the same amount of energy on stage as they do in the studio, it's no wonder their shows continue to sell out across the globe. Not to mention, anyone approved by Elton John just can't be overlooked.

So if you've been on the fence about this band for the last couple of years, or if you've never heard of the band until now, give them a chance.

Try not to think of them as four young men stuck in the '70s. Think of them as four young men bringing some good, old-fashioned rock 'n' roll back into the 21st century.

The return of the king



By John Saffrahn

Staff writer

Over the last decade, major league baseball has seen an astronomical rise the average pitcher's velocity. It was not that long ago when big, bad, Bobby Jenks was scrapping 100 and was a sight to be seen. Now just about every bullpen has at least 3 guys you have never heard of sitting 97 plus.

This even extends down to the college recruitment level, where if you are a righty who isn't throwing 95 out of high school, you will not even get the time of day from high level programs.

It seems that baseball too has been caught up in the craze of

everything being bigger, faster, and better just like every other aspect of life. However, while these are actually what a team would want in a player, there are more important aspects of the game and no one exemplifies them better than Justin Verlander.

Verlander was once the top dog of lighting up the radar gun himself. He was known for his ability to throw late into games and actually start to throw harder as the game went on, not slow down. In 2011, every week on ESPN, you could find Verlander throwing 102 in the 8th inning at 105 pitches.

He had new age velocity combined with an old school mentality that together, made him the most feared pitcher in baseball. In 2011, Verlander made in mark on baseball by winning the AL MVP, Cy Young Award and pitching triple crown.

He stood alone at the top of the mountain and continued his success with another dominant season in 2012. However, in 2013 he posted a 3.46 era, which is good but over a run higher than his MVP season.

From there, the velocity stated to drop and the era started to rise. Verlander's age was catching up to him along with the athleticism

of the league. Pitchers were throwing harder and harder and hitters were starting to catch up. The days of blowing a hitter away at 97 were gone.

In 2014, he posted his highest era since his 2nd season in the league and following the conclusion of the season, underwent back surgery.

He halfway through the 2015 season starting only 20 games and finishing with a record of 5-8. And he no longer had the electric fastball he was known for. On a good day, you might see him hit 96, a far cry from what he once was.

The world had surpassed him in youth and in raw power, but Verlander is unlike most. He is not just some show pony; he is a pitcher in the purest form of the word.

In 2016, he posted a 3.04 era with a record of 16-9 and finished in a controversial 2nd place in the Cy Young voting. He regained some of his velocity but that is not where he found success. He had reinvented himself.

He started doing something almost no one else was doing. He started pitching almost exclusively in the top of the strike zone. In a world where hitters only care about hitting the ball

in the air, Verlander still had just enough mustard on his 4 seamer to keep hitters from getting on top of the ball.

He also added a cutter to his already extensive repertoire. He combined that with an increase in the amount of sliders he was throwing to add a more deceptive element to his game.

Verlander was back, but the Tigers had suffered a few significant losses to trades, free agency, and age. Verlander was ready to win again, but his team was not.

Late into the 2017 season, Verlander agreed to a trade that sent him to the hot new contenders, the Houston Astros. Verlander got off to an immediate dominant start were he won his first 5 games with the team.

This got the attention of the league and of the world. The forgotten ace was now back in the spotlight. Behind Verlander's veteran arm and leadership, the extremely young Astros won the World Series.

In 2018, he continued his success. He finished with a 2.52 era, his lowest since 2012. His record was 16-9 with an impressive .9 whip over 214.0 innings pitched. He also recorded a career high 290 strikeouts which

helped him reach the milestone of 2500 career strikeouts.

The days of a starting pitcher throwing more than 5 innings before running to the bullpen may be drawing to a close if they are not already here. But every 5th day when Justin Verlander takes the mound, you forget about all the commercials, instant replays and flash. You just watch some good ol' fashioned baseball.

Then as it was, then again it will be. And though the course may change some time, rivers always reach the sea.

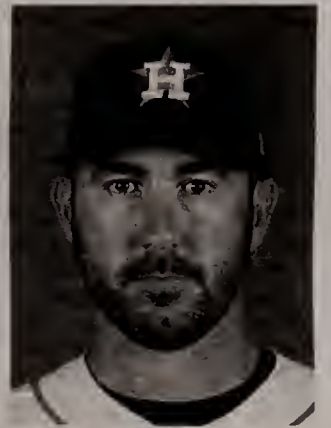


Photo courtesy of mlb.com

Justin Verlander

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Soccer from page 1

Wolves and ended his season with impressive stats. The freshman finished off the season with 11 goals, 32 points, and an impressive 10 assists in the season earning the 17th spot in the nation in assists for Division III sports.

Haro was able to make his

mark on the team with his active and heavy defensive skills set. The freshman was able to get himself two goals this season, although he is a defender. He was also able to get himself four points.

Malek was another elite defensive weapon in JJC's

arsenal. The sophomore was able to earn himself one goal, two assists, and four points. He showed the ability to distribute the ball as well as defend it.

Overall the JJC men's soccer team had themselves a good season with new players being able to showcase their talent

and develop a presence to the competitive college soccer world.

While returning players were able to advise, guide, and motivate their new teammates. The balance showed results on the pitch.

The Wolves ended their season with 37 goals and 21 assists

under Coach Cris Trillo, who has just concluded his 17th year with the men's soccer team. The Wolves look to grow and improve for the next season as room for improvement is always on the agenda for Trillo.



Jaime Huichapa attempts to take the ball away from the opposing team.

Photo courtesy of jjcwolves.com



Christian Galvan goes to pass the ball.

Photo courtesy of jjcwolves.com

Mens and womens cross country places high at Nationals

By Madeline Wheaton

Production Manager

On Saturday, Oct. 27, JJC runners Jaime Quintero, Coby Hageman, Michael Rodriguez, and Ana Pineda all were able to advance to the NJCAA Division III National Championship due to their performances at a previous meet: the Region IV Championship.

For women, Pineda achieved fourth place in the 5000 meter run at 21 minutes and 0.52 seconds. Leading the men, Hageman placed fifth in the 8000 meter run at 27 minutes and 58.30 seconds. Rodriguez (29:43.58) placed 10th while Quintero (29:53.62) placed 11th.

Continuing on to the NJCAA Division III Nationals Championship in Westfield, Massachusetts on Saturday, Nov. 3, JJC had Quintero, Hageman, and Pineda attend.

Pineda was the top finisher for the JJC Lady Wolves with a time of 21 minutes, 3:59 seconds which placed her 13th out of 125 female runners. She was also named a Third Team All-American.

Hageman was the top finisher for the men with a time of 28:59:40 which placed him 26th out of 176 male runners, while Quintero (30:17.61) finished 64th.

Great job to all the Wolves who competed at the Nationals!



Ana Pineda



Coby Hageman



Jaime Quintero

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MAKES US FREAKS
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2018-19' Returning Womens Basketball Players



Shenea Best

Gloria Choate

Talia Edwards

Madison Harris

Jessica Pelton

131 pts.
during 2017-2018

49 pts.
during 2017-2018

250 pts.
during 2017-2018

124 pts.
during 2017-2018

37 pts.
during 2017-2018



Players move the ball up the court. Photo by Meghan Blenck



Players attempt to block a shot during the alumni game. Photo by Meghan Blenck

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Are you a small business owner looking to advertise and bring in business?

Are you a professor trying to host an on-campus or local event?

Are you a JJC club wanting to promote an event that students should attend?

Are you a college looking trying to reach out to transfer students?

Advertising in the JJC Blazer is a great way to achieve promotion seen by thousands of staff, professors and students in the Joilet area.



SPORTS



Alyssa Baron goes to pass the ball against College of Dupage.

Photo by Nicole Bertic

Lady Wolves spectacular season ends short

By Ricky Saravia

Sports Editor

The Lady Wolves soccer team ends a spectacular season with a 16-4-1 record and are Regional IV champions.

The team went onto battle Delta (Mich.) for the NJCAA Division III District D Championship in Joliet on Oct. 28.

The Wolves were down by the half as the pioneers scored their first goal at the 15 minute mark. Freshman Katherine Rasmussen was able to tie the score with a goal at 50 minutes assisted by Lindsey Bond who is third in the nation in assists with 21 for the season.

After the ladies gave their all in hopes of proceeding with the

postseason, Delta scored another goal at 75 minutes, concluding the 2018-19' season for our Regional IV Champions.

Freshman goalkeeper Daisey Quinonez was able to defend seven of the nine shots on target with a 77% success rate. Quinonez ended the season ranked second in the nation for most shots saved with 144. She also showed up at number 11 in the nation for goals saved percentage with 84.7%. She was constantly creating difficulties for opposing teams.

The team had an outstanding season with a number of players showing up on the leaderboards on a national level. In addition to Quinonez and Bond, Sophomore Miranda Nirchi showed off her scoring skills this season with flying colors.

Nirchi earned the top spot coming in as number 1 in the nation in goals score this season. Nirchi has no problems passing the ball either ending the season ranked 10 in assists. She also earned first in shots taken and second in points earned. Nirchi ended her sophomore season with 30 goals, 16 assists, 76 points, and 136 shots taken on target.

Freshman Taylor Metcalf ended her first season with the Wolves on the leaderboards as well. Metcalf ranked 10 in the nation for goals scored with 21. Her passing ability was also a key aspect to her game. Metcalf ended the season with 12 assists ranking 22 in the nation in assists. She also earned the 10 spot for points earned with 54. The freshmen had a great start

to her JJC career with a great offensive presence making her a lethal weapon to the game.

The Lady Wolves made their mark on the leaderboards overall as a team. The Wolves ranked high in four categories: shots taken, assists, shots scored, and shots per game percentage.

The ladies have earned a reputation of abusing the opposing team's goalies with consistent target practice. JJC is ranked first in the nation in the shots taken section with a staggering 537 shots taken this season. This earned them second place on the shots per game category averaging 26.9 shots a game, making goalies work.

With the ladies firing away every chance they got, it's no surprise the Wolves earned themselves the third spot in the

nation for goals scored with 85 goals. The team worked very well with each other with great passing awareness earning themselves 124 assists and topping the leaderboards coming in at first.

The JJC Lady Wolves has become a strong, well rounded, and unselfish team under the wings of Coach Wesley Dapkus, who has just finished his third season as head coach of the Women's soccer team. The team is young and full of bright talent that created struggles for any opponent by their team chemistry, relentlessness, and love for the sport.

The JJC Lady Wolves has made their school very proud. The 2018-19' women's soccer team was something special. Excellent season ladies!

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Mens Soccer

Named to the All-Region Team 2018-19'



Christian Galvan



Leonardo Haro



Malek Rashid

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JJC Student Govt. looks to the future

By Meghan Blenck

Assistant Production Manager

As the semester winds down, most clubs are winding down too. Members of Student Government are still moving at full force as the semester upon us is closing.

The most important part of the meeting was the approval and motion to accept the amended Constitution. Changes made to the Constitution were mainly about members earning points for their activities participated in over the semester.

All members approved the updates to the Constitution in a quick vote of hands. Adviser Pam Dilday sent members a copy through Google on Nov. 1 and paper copies were in the Office of Student Activities (OSA) since Nov. 15. Vice President Rebecca Ashbacher made the announcement on the Constitution.

They also discussed the work that needed to be done for their poster for the multicultural fair they are going to be apart in on Dec. 4. The event will take place from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on the bridge. The group will be representing the Caribbean Islands and jerk chicken will be provided. Other clubs will be representing other countries as well.

The group also decided to continue their chocolate bar fundraiser over the winter break. The decision on this was based on many members not selling as many as they wanted, and they hope that by extending the sale can help members sell more.

The chocolate bars are from World's Finest Chocolate and are being sold for only a dollar. A whole box of candy bars are worth \$60.

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Cafe changes coming to main campus



The cafeteria will soon be undergoing major changes.

Photo by Jessica Mack

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

Plans to change the food service operation at the JJC main campus are currently underway.

Over the past few years, Food Services has been working diligently to reduce expenses and increase revenue. Director of Business and Auxiliary Services, Janice Reedus, states that cafeteria sales have reduced significantly due to issues that Food Services has been unable to resolve.

According to Reedus, there has been a significant decrease in on-campus enrollment as more online classes are being taken due to convenience. Along with less Pell Grant funds being granted which is possibly due to

See Cafe page 4

JJC honors veterans with ceremony

By Cadarrius Banks

Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College Office of Student Activities (OSA) hosted the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 9.

The event began at noon on the Veterans Memorial Bridge

at Main Campus. It was free and open to the public.

JJC has conducted a Veteran's Day Ceremony for more than 10 years and this year was no different. The public was invited once again to join JJC employees and students in honoring past and present veterans.

See Honors page 6



Veterans fold flag following the ceremony.

Photo courtesy of Pam Dilday

Men's basketball looks to improve

By Ricky Saravia

Sports Editor

Joliet Junior College men's basketball is showing strong signs of improvement over the past few games, but continue to fall short with a current record of 2-7.

On Dec. 1, the Wolves fell to Morton with a score of 64-90. Nolan Kennedy lead the team

with four rebounds and Trey Wornica scored the most with 15 points. This was unfortunately the Wolves seventh loss.

Kennedy averages 4.9 rebounds per game currently while Wornica averages 11.2 points per game.

In another recent close game, men's basketball fell three points short at the buzzer against Chicago's Olive-Harvey

College ending with a score of 80-83 on Nov. 27 in Joliet. The game was a tough one to lose as Joliet trailed by single digits for most of the game.

It was an extremely close game with the clock ticking down in the fourth quarter and the Wolves found themselves in the position to push the game into overtime with only three seconds on the clock.

With a three-pointer, they would be able to stay in the game. Unfortunately, they did not get the ball into the basket for the three-pointer, leaving JJC's Event Center's crowd quiet and stunned.

Bolingbrook's Isaiah Clemons put up solid numbers

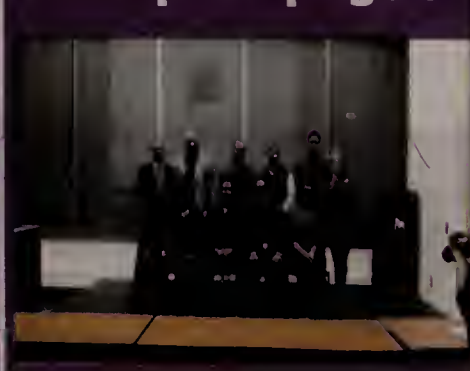
See Men's page 11

Check out
what is
inside
this
issue

Art Showcase Page 5



Wolfpack page 8



Colleges face enrollment struggles

During the 2000s, college enrollment was at an all-time high. You could definitely assume that community colleges were making bank as the economy was trying to pick itself back up again. But starting in spring 2011, when enrollment was at its highest peak, community colleges in general started the slow decline. Now, according to cbsnews.com, these colleges have lost over 1 million enrollments between 2011 and 2013.

So what happened?

In this issue "Cafe changes coming to main campus" discusses the issue of the enrollment slump with the idea that the economy was in a good place, resulting in students attending a 4-year institution instead, according to Rob Galick who is the vice president of administrative services. Ever since 2010 when the Great Recession ended, two-year colleges have been struggling with declining enrollments according to pbs.org.

However, that cannot be the only reason, and we wanted to discuss that here.

Perhaps students are wondering if college is really

worth it and if they're getting their money's worth. The cost of college has risen significantly over the years.

According to marketwatch.com, the average price of an undergraduate degree increased by \$63,973 dollars, or roughly 161%, since 1987. These numbers were adjusted for inflation.

That's a huge amount. With the minimum wage being around \$7.25 an hour, being able to pay for college, rent an apartment and be able to afford other expenses is stretching it for a college student.

Perhaps students are finding that trade jobs have become a nice alternative to getting a degree. They tend to have a shorter time frame of being required to go to school, with some trade jobs taking only two months to get their certificates, giving them the ability to almost immediately go out into the world and get decent-paying jobs.

On the other hand, when the economy is not good, students might believe that a degree is absolutely necessary in order to get a job. Going to college could be considered a safe alternative,

giving students a chance to get away from their parents when they can't find a job.

In just 2014, according to pbs.org, "The unemployment rate for Americans with bachelor's degrees or higher is just 3.2 percent, compared to a national average of 6.1 percent." This is a significant difference. But are statistics really enough to convince students?

In recent years, employers have been requiring many students to have at least 2 or more years of experience in order to work for them. That's a huge problem considering the thousands of dollars students pay in obtaining "book smarts", rather than experience.

Perhaps the job market is currently winning a tug of war with community colleges.

But there are other problems. According to insidehighered.com, in 2012 there was a policy change in the Pell Grant program. It lowered the required income threshold for the federal financial aid program and ended up decreasing the number of low-income students that would qualify.

In reality, state and federal legislators aren't helping

community colleges. These officials tend to withhold reimbursement, and with enrollment declining over the past few years, it doesn't look good for community colleges overall.

One thing that could combat this situation would be high schoolers participating in their school's dual-enrollment program with a community college and then continuing with that same college. Unfortunately, it seems a large number of students go to a 4-year college instead of continuing on with classes at the community college.

There are multiple problems with this entire situation. But not all hope is lost. For community colleges, a few changes are certain to be made, such as what will happen at JJC with the cafeteria changes.

Our most powerful weapon as a community college is the impression that the college is truly worth the investment. And we can only hope that JJC, despite recent student space issues, can continue to work with the students to provide a healthy and hopeful environment.

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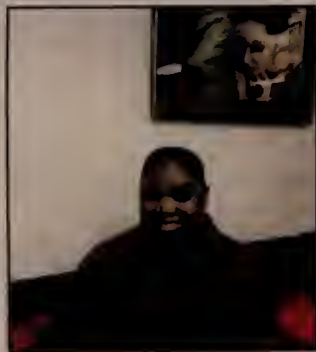
Question of the Issue

What is your
favorite
holiday movie?



Zulema Contreras

"I would have to say 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' and 'Home Alone.' 'Nightmare Before Christmas' because it's not really like a traditional Christmas movie. It's Tim Burton so it's completely different and twisted. I love that. And 'Home Alone,' too, because it's something I grew up watching around this time."



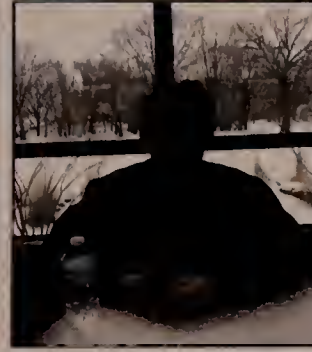
Ashley Smith

"My favorite Christmas movies are 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' the old one, and 'The Polar Express.' I like how the grinch, in the end, was really happy and joyful. And the 'Polar Express' is just my favorite-- it's my Christmas-go-to."



Brandon Chaperro

"I would have to go with 'Home Alone' just because I grew up watching it. It's a movie that you see all the time as a kid."



Cole Westmoreland

"'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation' because my family watches it every year so it's sort of like a tradition and it's like more personal to me because it is a tradition. My favorite part would be when they're putting up the Christmas lights."

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Happiness versus money: Which would you choose?



By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

The only way to do great work is to love the job you have.

Although I had switched through so many majors like Johnny Depp changes characters, I was determined to make it

through this major: Nursing. I believed that I would get to help people and also make a decent amount of money while doing it. It was a win-win situation. Or so I thought.

So I went through the motions. I signed up for three hard science classes I'd need to complete before the spring semester, which was suicide in itself. And then I went and signed up to volunteer at a hospital near me. I was excited to see what my possible work environment would be like.

And boy was I in for a rude awakening. I was placed in the Emergency Department, so I had the job of showing people back to the rooms of their loved ones, wheeling people back who actually needed treatment and more.

But all I could see were those

gray walls of doom staring back at me, the beeping of the machines, and the constant edginess that people tended to get when being in an ER. I didn't blame them.

This didn't deter me yet. I was still determined, albeit a bit intimidated and questioning my life choices, but I still wanted to go through with it. I wanted to be a provider. At least, until I had a conversation with a nurse that changed everything.

For anonymity sake, we'll call her Tina. Tina was a full-time nurse who informed me she worked four, 12-hour shifts a week. She still had three days off, but she got called in often and informed me that she sometimes regretted becoming a nurse.

She couldn't see her kids as often as she would have with perhaps another job. She told

me that patients clawed, bit, screamed, and spit at nurses all the time, and she often finds herself cleaning up people who show no gratitude and yelled at her anyways.

It was draining, she said. Eventually, you become emotionally numb. If you want to help people, but you don't have a strong mental barrier, you wouldn't survive and would most likely crumble under the pressure.

But she didn't completely regret her decision. She managed to get over every obstacle to get where she is now. By becoming mentally strong, she was able to get through her days easily. She loved helping people, she loved her co-workers, and it was overall a mostly satisfying job.

For the record, I am not trying to dissuade anyone from

becoming a nurse or pursuing any job in the medical field. I am also not attempting to downplay the job or say it's awful. It just isn't for everyone, including myself.

Months ago, I made a decision that would forever guarantee I probably wouldn't be the moneymaker of the family. I decided to pursue my true, satisfying career: Book editing and publishing.

I know what you're thinking. But I love reading, I love writing, and I love editing. My dream was always to work for a book publisher for fantasy books. And now I'm planning to do it.

Love your job, and you will succeed. That is my moto daily now, because I truly believe I can bring in the cash for this job if I put in as much effort into it as I believe I will.

Excelsior! Stan Lee's legacy lives on



By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

When I was about 8-years-old, I wrote a letter to Stan Lee and his company. I honestly can't remember what I wrote exactly although I'm pretty sure it had some nerdy question. But what I do remember is the excitement I felt writing to him about how much his work meant to me and how it had played a major part in my life.

10 years later, since his passing on Nov. 12, 2018, looking back, I can say that feeling hasn't changed a bit.

Whether you remember him as the king of Marvel cameos (if you're more into the movies) or the creator of all of your favorite superheroes if you grew up with the comics, there's no denying the impact Lee had on generations of comic book lovers and true believers everywhere, young and old.

Born Stanley Martin Lieber in 1922, Lee published his first comic in 1941, contributing to Jack Kirby's "Captain America Comics," issue #3. It wasn't until about 20 years later that Lee and Kirby would create their first superhero team together, The Fantastic Four.

Within the same decade, the two men would go on to create

many other superheroes we know and love together, including the X-Men, Thor, Iron Man, Doctor Strange (with Steve Ditko), the Hulk, Black Panther (the first black superhero), and Spider-Man.

As I'm sure a lot of people can relate, these characters ended up defining my childhood. Having been born a couple years before the first "Spider-Man" movie with Tobey Maguire came out, and collecting his comics since I was six,

Stan Lee's webslinger ended up becoming my favorite superhero, not just because of the powerful life lesson that has followed fans for years: "With great power comes great responsibility," but believe it or not, Peter Parker was someone I could relate to. I was a total bookworm and have since graduated to a much higher level of geeky nerd, and admittedly, I was also picked on a lot as a kid (but really, who wasn't at some point in their life?).

It was through Lee's work that I not only regained my self-esteem but also created my own safe little world of entertaining heroes and villains, where the good guys almost always won and you, the reader, learn something along the way.

In a lot of ways, Stan Lee was a real-life superhero, not just to a little kid like me, but also to the outside world. Like the characters he created, he used his powers for good, writing about many important events that were occurring at the time.

When "The Amazing Spider-Man" rose to prominence and became Lee's most popular character, he tackled subjects such as the Vietnam War and activism. In 1968, the year that the Civil Rights Amendment was passed, one of his most popular "Soapbox" columns was published, discussing one

of the real supervillains of the world, beginning with the line that still remains prevalent today: "Let's lay it right on the line. Bigotry and racism are among the deadliest social ills plaguing the world today."

In 2017, Lee shared his column again on Twitter shortly after the protest organized by white supremacists in Virginia that ended in tragedy.

There is so much more I'd love to say about Lee; I could write pages and pages about him, his

characters, and my comic-filled childhood. I can honestly say without a doubt that he actually was more of a hero to me than the heroes he made.

While I may never have gotten a response to my letter, I've continued reading Marvel comic books well into my teens and adult years. And of course, I always find the time to watch every movie, whether it's the very first "X-Men," "The Avengers," or even the lesser known "Daredevil."

The inner child in me never got sick of finding classic back issues that were way before my time, and really, I've always believed it's a form of art that anyone and everyone can enjoy.

It was certainly a sad day for us Marvel fans when Lee left us, but fear not, True Believers. He may be gone, but his legacy will surely live forever.

As the man himself once said, "You know, I guess one person can make a difference. 'Nuff said!"



All photos courtesy of Imdb.com

Stan Lee was known for his cameos in many movies including 'Spiderman,' 'Captain America Civil War' and 'Captain America: The Winter Soldier.'

Correction: In the Oct. 17 issue, the mosaic bench was incorrectly labeled as a mosque. Also, Professor Marc Kaufman was incorrectly named Marc Chen.

Student from page 1

Members are also helping out with setting up for and hosting Fosterpalooza on Friday Dec. 14 from 4-7 p.m. Student Government will be assisting children who come with the craft table. This is another event many clubs at the college decide to participate in. It allows children in the foster care system to have their own Christmas party.

After a stressful semester, Student Government looks

forward for their end of the semester potluck on Dec. 6. Members will all bring their own food to share. Instead of meeting in their normal spot in room A-1002, they will be in the lower level of J in the old cafeteria.

They have already discussed helping Press Pause with their Mental Health Day event for next semester. They also are going to host the recycled art show next semester.



In memory of the 41st US President
George H.W. Bush

June 12, 1924 -
November 30, 2018

"Think about every problem, every challenge, we face. The solution to each starts with education."

Cafe from page 1

a shorter deadline for students to use the Pell Grant funds.

"...the cafeteria having a financial loss of \$242 thousand last year and \$148 thousand the year before. This financial loss is driving the need for change," says Reedus.

There are two options that are being considered. The first is to restructure the operation, and the second is to outsource it to a third party vendor. The goals for both options are to reduce the financial loss, preserve as many jobs as possible, and support employees through the possible rough transition.

For the restructuring option, JJC would continue to operate as is and the Food Services managers would work together to develop a plan of action in order to reduce the expenses without reducing the sales. This could lead to eliminating many of the menu offerings, operating hours, and even staff. Regarding staff, there will most likely be changes but it is unknown at this time what these changes will be until the restructuring plan is finalized, says Reedus.

For the outsourcing option, JJC would issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to all interested parties requesting that they submit proposals on how they would manage the college's food service operations and how they would plan to compensate the college itself. JJC would then go on to require that the chosen outside firm interview all current employees due to the firm making all hiring decisions. All cafeteria employees of JJC would become employees of the new firm instead.

Vice President of Administrative Services Rob Galick says he would prefer the college to continue the food

service operations, but cannot let his personal feelings affect "what is best for the college and for students."

According to Reedus, in order to determine if they are meeting the budget projections for revenue and expenses for the school, they review the entire financial situation of each operation. If they aren't being met, then they have to analyze the situation to determine the cause(s).

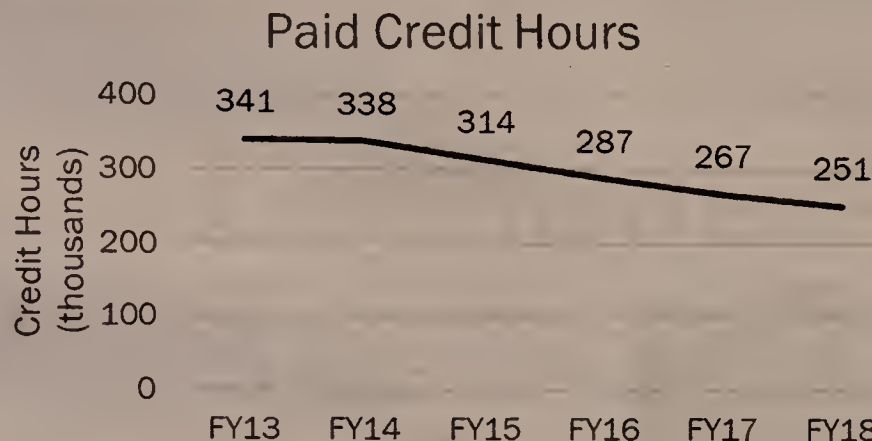
"We will work on both options simultaneously with a recommendation going to the JJC board of trustees in February of 2019. The board makes the final decision," says Reedus.

Both plans may lead to a loss of jobs available in the cafeteria, but it may be inevitable due to the lack of finances available for the food services. This all comes down to the current enrollment slump that JJC and many other community colleges are going through.

In general, enrollment slump in community colleges happens when the economy is strong, leaving students with the opportunity and funds to attend a 4-year institution rather than going to a community college and then transferring on to save money.

While the economy being in a good place is an excellent opportunity for most people in the U.S. it creates a dire situation for community colleges. JJC has seen an enrollment decline recently, but Galick has seen other community colleges having an even larger decline.

Galick says that they are attempting to find new academic programs that can result in good jobs for students and are currently reviewing current academic programs and their curriculums to determine if they are still meeting



Graphic courtesy of Robert Galick

This graph shows the decrease in student enrollment over the last six years.

the needs of employers.

According to Galick, reduced enrollment will always mean reduced tuition revenue, resulting in the school having to make up the difference elsewhere.

"Our objective is to always balance the college's budget while minimizing the impact on students."

He also states that they could reduce costs of things, but it's not that simple: this could result in reduced services available to students. On the other hand, they could also increase the rate of tuition.

"Please know that a tuition increase, no matter how small, is always the last resort," Galick says.

The overall objective of the

options available is to improve the financial situation that JJC's food service operation is going through currently to combat the enrollment slump issue. It will hopefully reduce the college's expenses and perhaps even generate more income.

Galick says they also hope to have a student representative on the committee to make the food service decision. "Like all major decisions at the college, it is critical that we receive student feedback."

"Improving the financial picture means more money to support programs for our students," says Reedus.

No matter what, Galick says the student body will always be a priority in mind.

"I want to ensure that we have the most competitive prices and the highest quality possible. At the same time, we need to reduce the cost associated with having a food service operation. By minimizing the college's cost (not just in food service but across the entire institution), we are reducing the need for future tuition increases to balance our budget."

While we can only hope that these options are going to assist the food services program, it makes one wonder what could happen to other programs within the school due to enrollment slump.

The board is looking to make one of these options effective by July 1, 2019.

LIT club is more than books

By McKenzie Berghuis

Staff Writer

JJC's LIT(erature) Club, advised by Tonetta Jones, is more than just a traditional book club. With meetings every Thursday from 1-2 p.m. in the Office of Student Activities (OSA), the club is constantly active with community projects, read-outs and many other events happening on campus.

Jacob Bell, third year student and co-leader of the LIT Club, stated that many seem to think of the club as just a book club, but there are different aspects to it. All forms of literature are involved when it comes to a read-out; a discussion about a specific

universal theme.

"You bring a piece of literature that you enjoy, whether it be music, poetry, a news article or a novel and you read it to the group," sophomore and co-leader Kyla Egizio said. "I love this because this gives everyone a chance to say, 'wow, I read this thing and it blew my mind...let me share it with all of you.'"

Two out of the four meetings a month are for read-outs while the other two meetings are to discuss plans for upcoming events the club is involved in, including their one community service project per semester.

"We still have to vote on our project," Bell said. "We're currently between Fosterpalooza and Giftmart, which are both

really great."

Aside from community service projects, the LIT Club participates in campus events with other JJC clubs. Past events they have been involved in were the trunk-or-treat event and the JJC Wellness Fair to raise awareness for intellectual health.

Bell states, "The LIT Club is here to spread the love of knowledge to other people. Nobody reads too much anymore with technology, but this club motivated me to enjoy school while working towards my own personal development and growth."

For more information stop by the OSA office, check out the club's Instagram page or contact Jones.



The dining area of the main campus cafe.

Photo by Nicole Bertic

OMSA discusses prison and prejudice

By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) held a seminar led by success pathway coach LeeAntwann McCline on Nov. 13.

Officially advertised as "Prison Is My Second Home," approximately 10 students attended the discussion, originally meant to be held for an hour but lasted close to two hours. During this time, McCline spoke to students in a personal and honest manner about the high incarceration rates of African Americans in the United States, the country's overall prison statistics, and the repugnant prejudice and racism that still exists in America.

He also proposed several questions at the start of his presentation, including "How do we get to prison?" "What is its relationship to slavery?" and "Who funds prisons in America and incarcerates people?"

First of all, it is very important to note, as it was mentioned in this

seminar, that there is a difference between "jail" and "prison." While jail is short-term, prison is long-term, where inmates carry out, for example, a life sentence.

"There are [approximately] 2.4 million people in American prisons," McCline states. "This number has grown by 500% in the past 30 years."

In the courtroom, the figures are just as startling. While about 80% of judges are white, only 7% are black; similarly, 44% of the defendants are African Americans and 30% white. The remaining percentages are made of mostly Latinx or Hispanic people as well as other races.

So, the follow-up questions that have plagued America for generations remain: why are there so many prisoners, and how is race incorporated into this? McCline and the attendees spent the entire two hours discussing this and digging even deeper.

"Money is a huge reason we have so many prisoners," he says.

"Several corporations [such as the bail industry, law enforcement, and phone companies Corizon and Global-Tel, which charges

\$17 for a 15-minute phone call] make huge profits... Private prisons are a \$70 billion industry."

McCline also says, "If prison wasn't a good money industry, no one would be in it."

One of the most significant subjects McCline also covered was the effect of prison on inmates and ex-convicts, specifically how much the former suffers and the latter loses once they are released. Often, he compares prison time to slavery.

"Once you are convicted - once you become a slave - you are my property," he speaks hypothetically. Much like slavery, according to his presentation, people in prison are kept alive "just enough to live" but are left vulnerable and unprotected.

"When you treat people like animals, that is how they are going to behave," explains McCline. As a result, inmates frequently turn violent both against each other and later on, against others upon release.

The discussion then highlights life after prison, which oftentimes is even harder. Not only is it harder to re-acclimate to society,

it is hard to find a job because most employers will not hire ex-convicts. Consequently, people will resort back to crime just to get by on their own. This is just one example of how their rights are taken away, and unfortunately, this is not even one of the worst consequences.

"One thing that we all have... the most valuable thing we have... that will hurt more than losing [anything else]... is time. Time, you cannot get back." This is an inmate's greatest weakness, and of course, it is what is used against them.

While McCline speaks in a general sense throughout the discussion, the main point of his session is that while prison affects men and women of every race, it is most detrimental to black people because not only do they make up a large percentage of prison inmates, they face discrimination and prejudice regardless of their background.

It is enough to make everyone in the room wonder why this happens and what the solution is.

After his presentation, McCline then asks the audience, "What

are your thoughts?" For the last hour or so, the conversation shifts between prison and racial discrimination in society.

"Segregation is between the 'haves' and 'have nots,'" he says, while referring to the relationship between race and social status.

At one point, he alludes to one of the reasons why racism still exists in the 21st century, similar to the common idea that racism is not inherited but taught.

"When you walk into a kindergarten classroom, kids are hugging each other... They don't [worry about] who is a Republican or who is a Democrat... As we get older, we start to assimilate [to what we see around us]."

By the end of the session that was more like an intimate conversation between himself and the students, he left them with a powerful lesson in tolerance and combating the bigotry that exists around the world today.

"We have to learn how to appreciate people for their uniqueness... [and] we have to realize that we all are the same."

JJC fine art showcase shows students' talents

By Krysta Moyes

Staff Writer

JJC's fine arts showcased many interesting classes the college offers at their Fine Arts Showcase on Nov. 7.

One of the classes was a stage makeup class. Alexis Carlson explained one of the assignments she had to do for her class. She came up with a scarecrow design, which used latex, tissue, burlap, and twine to create the effect of a scarecrow.

It was very interesting to watch the process. Carlson said the difficult part is using latex as it is difficult to get off and can get stuck in one's hair. After watching Carlson do the scarecrow makeup, people could look at other designs students had done in class. One that stood out was Van Gogh's "Starry Night"-inspired makeup design which

was extremely impressive.

The poster boards explained the process thoroughly from start to finish. This was really interesting and a personal favorite of other people who attended the Fine Arts Showcase.

Many did not know that JJC offered so many different classes, such as stage makeup. This class would be interesting to take if one has not yet filled their fine arts requirements yet.

The ceramics studio was another popular stop. One could watch students work at the wheel, which is not as easy as it looks. It takes a lot of practice and patience.

Ceramics is an fun class to take because students decide what their project is going to be. Another interesting class students can take at JJC to fulfill their fine arts requirement is jewelry making.

When talking to Debbie

Faynik, she gave me a wealth of information about the jewelry making classes and what the classes entail. In the beginning class, students watch teachers do demonstrations on what they need to know for their specific assignment.

The teacher showed demonstrations on cutting and riveting. Students will also learn the basics of jewelry making, such as working with wire and learning how to use the torch. Students will also learn how to solder, use a blade to smooth stones for necklaces, and make simple chains to build on that knowledge.

The advanced class is not as structured as the beginner class. Students in the advanced class know the different techniques, processes, and which metals are "soft" or "hard" metals.

One technique students can employ is called "lost wax".



Photo by Nicole Bertic

The showcase allows students to create pieces in all different types of mediums.

This entails molding the wax and then setting it in plaster. It is then heated up and the wax melts, creating a mold of the stone for example.

A favorite was seeing the projects students have made. Faynik showed multiple projects including various rings, bracelets, necklaces, and broaches that students made. She also explained how the beginner class helps prepare students to start crafting more complex jewelry for projects and assignments.

Some of the designs were very intricate, where others were simpler. Some students made matching earrings and necklaces to make a set. When talking to Faynik says that it is a really fun class to take.

The students are very supportive of one another and help each other out. It is definitely not a traditional or quiet class.

There is always something going on.

Students who have not fulfilled their fine arts requirement are in luck. This particular class is offered as a 2 1/2 -hour class in the spring and fall semesters or as a 3-hour class in the summer semester.

JJC has a lot of various classes that appeal to many different students' interests. Instead of taking a drawing or photography class, one could take jewelry making or stage makeup to get experience in different aspects of JJC's fine arts program.

JJC's fine arts program offers many classes that allows students to express themselves through their art, rather than giving a PowerPoint or writing a paper like most classes. Explore new options at JJC rather than taking the normal, always-taken electives!



Photo by Nicole Bertic

Student art work on display in Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery in the J-building.

Honors from page 1



Local veterans during the memorial service folding the American flag.



Local veterans display the nation's colors.

Light refreshments were provided to all attendees including students and staff walking by. The lovely smell of popcorn filled the halls, so if students were not aware of the event, they were soon to find out.

The occasion signifies a lot for JJC's history, so to show the importance of the matter, JJC's very own President Dr. Judy Mitchell provided the welcome address which was followed by the posting of the colors, pledge of allegiance and National Anthem.

The ceremony also included a moment of silence, a flag folding demonstration, recognition of military veterans by branch, and a performance by the JJC Chamber Singers and JJC Choral.

This was not JJC's first time hosting an event to honor and pay tribute to the soldiers and their families for fighting for our country, risking their lives, and keeping us safe. Special thanks were giving out as the attendees got to know one another.

The vets that attended were having a marvelous time, but not because of what was said,

but for how it was orchestrated, its purpose, and the ideal that America has not forgotten them and what they fought for.

All veterans that attended wanted was to feel appreciated and recognized for their journey. Some members stated that they thought this new generation has lost touch with the vets, but that JJC are constantly proven them otherwise and making them proud.

What made this event different from all the other events that they had attended was the amount of non-vets who attended and showed their support.

The whole feel of the event was something to dawn on for years to come, with the uplifting sounds of the music, smiles on many of the attendee's faces, and the history behind the event that caused everyone to take the time to come together and revel in the beauty of togetherness, unitedly as one. This was an event many people had looked forward to and cannot wait until next year to do it all over again.



All photos courtesy of Pam Dilday

Members of the JJC choir sing during the event.

JJC nursing students have new options

By Sean O'Dell

Co-Editor

It is time to outline an up-to-date list of the RN to BSN agreements are being offered to JJC nursing students, with spring semester fast approaching. Many second semester and fourth semester nursing students will begin their bachelor's program search. Here, a brief guide on the BSN need-to-knows will help students identify programs which offer impressive cost savings, time efficiency, and in some cases, both.

JJC currently has several existing articulated RN to BSN agreements from which nursing students can choose from for continuing their nursing education past the ADN. Among the current list include schools such as Chamberlain College of Nursing, Lewis University, Olivet Nazarene University, Purdue University Northwest, University of Phoenix, University of Saint Francis, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

University of Phoenix is one of the newest programs to offer JJC nursing students a deal, with a

tuition discount being offered to community colleges nationwide through their Dual enrollment program.

For this program, Dual enrollment means that a student may apply and be accepted to continue their coursework after passing the NCLEX. Many students would be interested to know that, like many of the programs in this article, Phoenix is strictly online learning.

This program comes in by similar fashion to Lewis University's current articulation agreement with JJC, in which students also receive a tuition freeze and a discounted rate from their normal tuition.

The offer comes with a full-time or part-time status, and classes for Lewis are in-person. With the in-person courses, there are several satellite sites available to attend to meet with Lewis instructors, including JJC itself.

In the works currently is a further specified articulation agreement with Illinois State University; with their current option to enroll concurrently online while completing third

semester for ADN at a community college, "a direct articulation agreement could mean even more perks for students," states Dr. Mary Beth Luna, Nursing department chair and professor.

Many nursing students often wonder about things like tuition and time-frame until graduation when considering entry into a BSN program. Some may also wonder why a higher degree would be worth pursuing in the first place, since ADN prepared nurses still maintain secure job placement upon graduation. 88% of ADN graduates from JJC were working as nurses in 2017 according to JJC's main website.

According to Luna, the higher degree is extremely worthwhile. "Going back for my bachelor's [in nursing] has made me an even better nurse. And my Master's degree!" Luna says.

While ADN nurses are certainly prepared for practice after JJC, Luna points out some practical considerations for weighing the benefits of going back to school.

"The reality is, you don't know what you don't know as a new graduate, and working through a higher degree can really enhance

those critical thinking skills, which in turn make you a better nurse, I believe."

Additionally, Luna references 2010 report from the Institute of Health suggesting that by the year 2020, roughly 80% of all practicing registered nurses should be bachelor's prepared. To boot, the report and m.com states that bachelor's-prepared nurses exhibited less errors in practice, were able to take on more leadership roles, and overall provided with improved quality of healthcare.

The impact this has on the graduating nurse is related to employment prospects, since many hospitals are working to achieve "Magnet status," part of which is awarded to the facility by heading the IOM's BSN suggestion, according to m.com.

So why doesn't JJC simply offer their own BSN program? The answer is more complicated than one may anticipate, says Luna.

It appears as though obtaining a BSN status from the appropriate accrediting bodies requires a lot of bureaucratic

footwork on the part of JJC, as evidenced by a "Nurse Degree Pilot Program" underway from proposed state legislature to allow all community colleges in the state offer such programs for their students.

The bill has enabled Malcom X college and Lewis and Clark community college to test these programs for their effectiveness, and will be evaluated in 2023 accordingly according to ilga.gov.

While nursing students would certainly find a community college priced BSN appealing, JJC offers many viable options for the smart spender and the ambitious achiever. In addition to the BSN programs listed above, some schools offer an RN to MSN track (Master's in nursing science). Examples are Governor's State and Depaul University.

As the close of fall approaches with finals looming in the air, perhaps it is best to focus on the present, and use the information presented here as a renewed source of hope and perseverance for the future. To the nursing students, carpe diem.

Amid #MeToo, club helps students find voice

By Joseph Garcia

Staff Writer

The ongoing efforts of the #MeToo movement have sparked nationwide activism, and student club Know the No is striving to be the space for those discussions on the JJC campus.

Founded by Hattie Wren, Coal City, in early 2016, Know the No's initial purpose was to bring awareness and provide resources for sexual and domestic abuse survivors, a service its founders didn't see in the community of

student clubs.

"I felt that students should be aware of their resources when in need and also be knowledgeable of their rights on campus and even off campus," Wren said.

As membership in the club grew, so did the group's focus. Now, almost three years after its founding, the group has expanded the topics they address during meetings to encompass the ongoing movement for women's rights, even attending the Chicago Women's March in January of 2018.

"We took the opportunity to bond with one another and try to brainstorm ideas as to what we could possibly do similar to this but for the college," Wren said.

Club adviser Jonathan Feit, also a coordinator of student conduct at JJC, joined the club last year and feels that rights of assault survivors have never been more at risk.

"[President Trump has] created an administration focused on downgrading and degrading women's issues and health. It's so important for our students to

know that they're not alone and there is a strong group of people out there willing to voice their concerns too," Feit said.

Along with their participation in the Women's March, the group also recently held a women's self-defense demonstration on the JJC bridge.

Other projects are currently in the works as well. An event dedicated to the memory of University of Utah student Lauren McClusky, who was killed by her stalker late last month, is currently in the works.

"Creating an event in her name will not only remind those of her story but will also bring awareness to dangers of stalking and what resources are available to those that may need help in their lives or in the life of someone they may know," Wren said.

Know the No meets every Thursday at 3 p.m. in D1010. According to both Wren and Feit, new members are always welcome.

Pathogens to commensals: a microbiologist speaks

By Cadarius Banks

Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College Society of Physics Students and STEM Scholars hosted their second open to the public event of the two part series to lecture about the field of quorum sensing in D-2001.

This free event took place at the main campus on Nov. 6 for an hour and a half, starting at 4 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. and a half hour at the end in case people had any questions.

The guest speaker at the event was Dr. Tiara Perez Morales, a microbiologist from Benedictine University, who visited to discuss how bacteria can coordinate activity and synchronize their response to external signals.

She was in for a warm welcoming by the amount of the participants alone with major being science and medical majors. Without a doubt, a sense of anticipation filled the room which was so crowded that people were willing to sit across the floor just to attend.

It was an amazing sight to see as you walked in, but you can tell they were not expecting that big of a turnout. This was probably due to that it was also the last day to vote for the Illinois midterm election.

JJC's students proved that science is of importance and that they value their education. This gave the guest speaker the confidence to crack a few jokes and get the students involved.

This camera friendly event had many people taking pictures and you could tell the students were instantly engaged by how many people had a writing utensil and note pad moving.

Morales asked the audience multiple questions, and was amazed by the audience participation and the prior knowledge most students and faculty had on the topic.

Professor Morrison did not hesitate to properly inform the participants what the lecture entailed and what to look forward to, so that they could be prepared to ask many questions. It was quite obvious that it worked, because many student replied that they did their research prior to the

lecture and was prepared to ask many questions.

The PowerPoint presentation was smoothly put together and if you were lucky enough to sit near the front, there was a high possibility that you were provided a paper copy as well. In case you have never heard of quorum sensing, here is some background knowledge.

According to "Protein Science," quorum sensing is used by a large variety of bacteria to regulate gene expression in a cell-density-dependent manner. Bacteria can synchronize population behavior using small molecules called autoinducers that are produced by cognate synthases and recognized by specific receptors.

Quorum sensing plays critical roles in regulating diverse cellular functions in bacteria, including bioluminescence, virulence gene expression, biofilm formation, and antibiotic resistance.

Morales presentation on radionics aimed to show how highly interdisciplinary STEM fields could be. Before the speaker could begin JJC's very own Professor Andrew Morrison, also co-host of the event stated that "This talk touches on physics, biology, computer science, and allied health fields. We want students and all attendees to see that for many cases in science you have to build bridges to work outside of a narrow field."

Morrison also gave a brief speech at the first event as well, leading to an introduction of the guest speakers. This gave the students time to get situated by finding their seats and enjoying the complimentary snacks the event provided.

The audience was informed that Morales taught many lab courses on Microbial Genetics and Principles of Infectious Diseases. She realized half way through college that she had a knack for teaching, and that see was really good at it. This could explain why she brought with her two of her students who recommended taking her courses if anyone was interested in the field.

The two students of hers spoke briefly on some of their summer research, but they did not want

to steal the show so they let their research in Morales' presentation do most of the talking.

The presentation went on and people crowded the guest speaker

with questions and snapped a picture of the paper copy if they did not receive one.

Without the doubt the Society of Physic Students and S.T.E.M

Scholar ended their series with a bang, with many smiling faces from the crowd.



Photo By Jessica Mack

Dr. Tiara Perez Morales spoke during the lecture about the field of quorum sensing on Nov. 6.

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Face to face: JJC welcomes filmmakers for media event

By Arianna Karnezis

Staff Writer

On Nov. 15, JJC's own Wolf Pack Video Productions Club collaborated with local film company Road 2 Eternity and the digital media production program to host "Face to Face with the Media Industry," an event with appearances by several filmmakers and actors.

Guest speakers included the Road 2 Eternity president Michael White, actors Kai A. Ealy, Harold Dennis and Lawrence E. Johnson Jr., filmmaker and founder of El-Amin Studios Shad El-Amin, director and producer Gerald Hall, JKBU Productions' own Cortez Mack, broadcasting engineer T.C. Hill, and cable talk show host Audrey Kenner. Also making a brief appearance was Chicago filmmaker Will Adams, who has written and directed several short films, including "A 3rd First," which was shown during the event and featured Johnson Jr. as the male lead.

Kicking off the presentation was a short video about Road 2 Eternity, covering the many films it has produced and its purpose, ending with an influential, appropriate message: "Never despise small beginnings because greatness stems from its roots."

In an interview with producer Sheila White, who also works at Road 2 Eternity, several weeks before, she promoted the event, calling it a "firsthand opportunity to talk with professional individuals."

"[They'll] explore instead of focus... [and] be able to have fortitude and be dogmatic," she states about the opportunities the event offers.

First to speak was Wolf Pack adviser Sandra "Shelly" LaFevers, who expressed her excitement about the turnout of the event, which at first glance held at least 20 to 30 people.

"It's a very lucrative career," Shelly says in a personal interview about filmmaking. "Kids don't have to move away... There are job opportunities in this area, and it's [the Chicagoland area] one of the main film industry hubs in this area."

The speakers at "Face to Face with the Media Industry" would go on to say the same thing in their own public speeches, including Ealy.

"Chicago is booming. There are over six TV shows filming [here]," he proclaims. "Chicago is it right now because L.A. is saturated... Everybody is an actor, editor, writer... your Uber driver is a filmmaker!"

Ealy, who has acted in various films and shows such as "Chicago Fire" and "Fallen" and traveled from Atlanta to Chicago at the beginning of his career, emphasized that the "starving artist" myth is real yet now has contributed much to the media industry.

"It isn't impossible to do this

work in Chicago," says Dennis. Having spent time in Chicago's ETA Creative Arts Foundation, an acting troupe, and performed about 171 shows on stage, he has had about 20 years of experience in the business and facilitated acting workshops.

Both actors presented their own film reel during the session, which included shows and movies they were featured in and served as beneficial examples to film students.

Also speaking was El-Amin, who created his own film studio and the film "Girl Assassin." The process was not an easy one, though. Struggling for years in school and being placed in special-ed classes, he was able to find his voice in film.

It is because of this that he advises to the students, "Express yourself the best way you know how."

Hall would encourage them similarly. "Once you discover you have a gift, you have to continue to develop it. You have to put the work in." He also notes, "The best part of this is the people you are going to meet."

He founded his media company B.A. Blessing Productions in 1993 and has written and produced 34 stage productions.

Following was Mack, who is also a director, producer, and writer. His first film, "What About the Children?" focused on neglected children and was repeatedly rejected by film festivals. It was not until he received a letter of recognition from the President of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences that the film opened doors for him.

He has gone on to make two more short films: "Bobby" which depicts mental illness in the black community and "Dinner Table" which touches on the negative effect of technology on families.

"I do films that deal with reality--or I try my best [to do so]," Mack says.

Next to speak was Hill, who explained the technical side of filmmaking. He has worked for several major television channels, including CBS and Fox, and now works at PBS. His job also involves training photographers and editors, the latter of which he stresses need to know every single editing program, including Final Cut, Adobe Premiere, and Avid.

To motivate his listeners, he summarized his experience in the industry with the remark, "You have to be good at whatever you do."

Last to speak were two people very familiar with television: Johnson Jr., who spoke very briefly about his acting career, appearing on popular shows such as "Chicago Med" and "Empire" and Kenner, host of "Today with Audrey Kay."

Kenner spoke very avidly about passion, saying that following and achieving her dreams--in only five years, no less--was happenstance.



Photo by: Arianna Karnezis

Filmmakers and actors recently gather at JJC to take part in a Q&A session with Wolf Pack Video Productions. From left: Cortez Mack, Gerald Hall, Audrey Kenner, Lawrence E. Johnson Jr., Harold Dennis, Shad El-Amin, Kai A. Ealy, Michael White, and T.C. Hill.

"I like talking to people [and] finding out what their dreams are," she explains. Her advice to students? Much like the other speakers, she stresses, "Follow your passion because it is going to lead you someplace."

Finally, the filmmakers gathered onstage for a Q&A where the audience could ask questions about the industry. Several asked

about developing and accepting scripts, communication between filmmakers and actors, challenges, intimidation, and being a rookie in the industry, and the writing process.

As Michael White stated in his own speech, the film industry is never a monotonous one. "You're always going to learn something new, but that's

the fun part."

And of course, perhaps the most important takeaway from this demonstration was how essential determination is in taking one's film career to new heights. "We're all human," Kai Ealy notes, "but some humans have the keys to your dreams. Find your key."

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'The Crimes of Grindelwald' is a fantastic fail

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

As the second movie out of the five planned for the "Fantastic Beasts" series, it fails as a movie, is confusing as hell, but still succeeds to set up the rest of the series. Kind of.

It is the series we wanted, but didn't need. And to be honest, I believe it is still unnecessary due to the overwhelming confusion that this film had. They attempted to introduce too many new characters, had more exposition to give to the audience, and just overall tried to tackle too many plotlines.

But I believe that is due to J.K. Rowling's writing itself (since she also wrote the screenplay), trying to over-complicate the series by trying to cover plot-holes that were questioned in the Harry Potter series. But even that wasn't successful because I definitely left the theatre feeling even more confused than before I walked in. Even the first film didn't make me feel like this.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" was a fantastic (no pun intended) start to a new look into the wizarding world. It gave us a fun, enigmatic side to some great, classic scenes that, although will never top the Harry Potter series, still gave me joy.

The 1920s New York set-

up seemed fine to me, but the 1920s Paris and London seemed a little...lackluster. Even though the circus scene was stellar in its own way, where were the can-can girls? The exciting social, literacy and arts revolutions? I saw nothing of the Roaring Twenties: just a dreary, sad, rainy Paris and London.

"The Crimes of Grindelwald" starts with Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) trying to get permission to travel overseas with all of his animals since last time in New York it didn't go so well. We get a short introduction to his brother Theseus Scamander (Callum Turner) and his fiancé Leta Lestrange (Zoë Kravitz) and that's about it for a large part of the movie.

They try to offer him a job at the Ministry, he says no, they say fine you can't travel to other countries because your animals are too dangerous. But that doesn't matter I guess because Dumbledore asks Newt to go out of country to help Credence Barebone, and he goes via portkey bucket.

Oh yeah, Credence - the moody teenager with a serious goth look is an Obscurial because his powers were blocked by his crazy step-mom - is alive, although that didn't surprise me that much since the first movie revolved around him so much.

Credence, however, has his

own agenda. Now he's best buds with Nagini and wants to find his real parents. And yes, I'm talking about Voldemort's favorite pet Nagini before she's a permanent snake woman, otherwise known as a Maledictus, cursed to permanently transform into a snake later in life.

I would have felt bad for Nagini in this film due to her abuse being shown off in a circus except, y'know, I watched Harry Potter. And I do not regret cheering when Neville sliced her in half with that beautiful sword.

And let's talk about Dumbledore. He has this thing called a blood pact with Grindelwald from when they were kids, making them promise to never hurt one another. From the scene in the movie, it seems like they're a bit more than friends: more like lovers. Which makes no sense.

Rowling has had a tendency recently to try to be too involved in her past books. Recently, she came out on Twitter saying that Dumbledore was gay even though there was absolutely no sign of this in the many, many books she wrote. Same with her claims of Hermione way after the movies were released: she tried to say she could be a black character, again, with nothing said in the actual books.

You can't admit facts after the books are written. If they aren't in

the books and you attempt to be a liberal by saying it on your social media, that doesn't make it true. It makes you a fake liberal and a hypocrite.

Queenie also pretty much drugs Jacob to convince him to marry her, even though marriage between muggles and wizards is illegal in the States and he doesn't want to see her in jail. This movie completely ruined her character. In the first film, she is lovely, enigmatic and charming. In "The Crimes of Grindelwald," she was turned into a confused and crazed puppet. She left with Grindelwald in order to secure a future to marry Jacob.

This seems odd since she can technically read minds, and she should have been able to immediately see the deception behind Grindelwald's actions. And even if his thoughts were being concealed, wouldn't she be suspicious of his attempts to hide his thoughts from her?

Moving on, the movie also fails big-time in just making me care about certain characters. You can't introduce a character in the same movie and expect me to be sad about their death as well while trying to juggle so many storylines. It's too much happening with not enough time to properly give these characters their spotlight.

Another problem is the pacing of the story. The climactic battle

didn't feel like it. There was no big fight or any reason for one at all, and it confused me when the movie ended a few scenes after that. Where is the legendary wizarding world magic fight? I got pretty much nothing. Just a semi-cool dragon that they say could eviscerate a city but gets defeated in less than a minute.

Unfortunately, all of this leads to a big pile of bad writing for this poor movie, with too many agendas and plotlines trying to be pushed and completed in this series by Rowling.

With a big surprise at the end that left my jaw open the entire time walking out of the theatre that kind of made the film interesting, I can only hope that the future is brighter than this bleak stain of a film on the wizarding world.

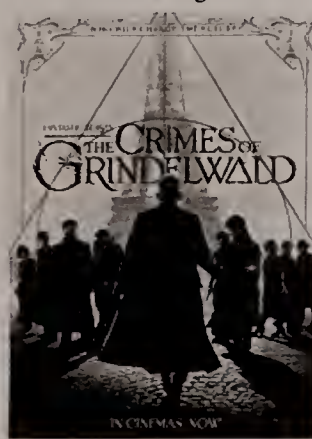


Photo courtesy of IMDb.com

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'Red Dead Redemption 2' delivers

By Justin Mazurkiewicz

Staff Writer

"Red Dead Redemption 2" scratched an itch I've had for a while. That itch would be an open-world game that is good and actually has a lot to do in it.

A lot of open sandbox games boast about having a huge and open world to explore, but there is usually almost nothing to actually do in it. "Red Dead Redemption 2" always has activities for the player to take place in, and it incentivizes players to do so.

The main story for the game takes place before the first "Red Dead Redemption" starring Arthur Morgan. Morgan is part of a gang of outlaws during a time when various large companies are starting to take over as main players in American influence.

The Wild West is slowly becoming less and less wild. One such factor being that a simple robbery turns out to have much larger consequences than the gang can foresee. The main story takes you to all of the different areas in the game and shows you how the game works at a steady pace that lets you learn the mechanics, then get tested on how to use them through various missions that follow.

Each section builds upon the last and never leaves a feature behind. There are plenty of side missions along with a plethora of challenges to accomplish and secrets to find.

Morgan can also choose to contribute things that he collects such as animals, money, and precious goods such as jewelry and other unique items to upgrade the gang's camp. This can give the player benefits such as ammo, food items, and medicine that are readily available instead of having to be purchased or stolen.

There is also a sort of karma system in the game where if Morgan does more honorable things, then he will get good karma. On the other hand, killing innocent people will give him bad karma. This system affects not only the prices in stores, but it also affects how people interact with Morgan.

For instance, I had shot a gun store owner in the face and I came back a few days later to see he was still alive, had a patch over his eye, and was a little crass with me upon returning to upgrade a gun.

The upgrades for the guns in the game are pretty cool, but they tend to just be the same cosmetic upgrades copy and pasted for each gun. The player can choose to change the color of the metal, get engravings, and change the color of the wood for each gun.

Some also support part upgrades, but the upgrades are pretty limited at the start to barrel extensions and some scopes. I know that it's the early 1900's, but the scopes suck.

Combat is really fun and fluid. The game takes the usual

cover system that most "Grand Theft Autos" and "Red Dead Redemption" have and made some improvements.

Most games before made it so if the player is aiming, they can roll if they push the jump button. They changed it now so that the player does a quick dive to the ground to dodge, then gets back up relatively slowly. This makes more sense for combat, especially once the online multiplayer releases.

The weapon wheel now consists of only two pistols and two rifle-style weapons. This makes sense and makes having a horse a must since all of the stowed weapons can be accessed and changed on the fly.

Horses have a lot of customization choices. Players can choose different saddles, saddle accessories, and how the mane and tail look. Having different saddles will have different effects on how the horse rides. Horses take time to bond with the rider. As the horse's bond levels up, their amount of stamina and health go up as well.

Cores are the main mechanic when it comes to maintaining Morgan's stamina, health, and Dead Eye gauges. On the screen will be three gauges for each of those things plus two more for the horse's health and stamina if you're riding one.

Eating and drinking different items and provisions in the game will maintain those cores, allowing the gauges to replenish to full. Failing to maintain a

certain core has drawbacks like slower movement and less health. These are very easy to maintain, but still makes it so the player doesn't forget to actually do things like sleep and eat food.

Weather elements also have a factor in health and stamina. If Morgan goes somewhere where it's too hot or cold and he doesn't dress accordingly, then those cores will be negatively affected unless he wears the appropriate clothing.

There is a huge amount of clothing options for him too. Jackets, tailcoats, suspenders, boots, and so much more are all different options. The player can make up to three custom outfits for Morgan and can have those stowed onto the horse, allowing there to be clothes for any temperature.

Some of my gripes with the game are the usual ones that come with open world games like "Red Dead Redemption 2." I tended to get a little burned out with all of the things you had to do. Riding a horse for a long while felt a little boring after doing it so many times.

There are fast travel stations in the form of trains and carriages, but if Morgan has a bounty on his head in a certain region, then those things become unusable until that bounty gets paid. The guns are accurate in terms of how they operate. A single action revolver has to be re-cocked after each shot.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

The only problem is that Morgan doesn't do this automatically. These animations usually only really activate if you stop aiming, then aim back down sights. Otherwise, you have to press the trigger to fire once to recock the weapon and again to fire. This can take some getting

used to and has costed me a fair amount of shots because I thought I had a round to fire.

"Red Redemption 2" is a wonderful addition to the series. A game like this that takes place in the wild west is something that isn't usually done, and Rockstar did it and did it very well.

'... Farce:' a comedy success

By DaMonte' Robinson

Staff Writer

On opening night, Nov. 15, 2018, I attended the Joliet Junior Colleges Fine Arts department play named "Unnecessary Farce." The play is created by Paul Slade Smith, but directed by JJC's own Tammy Perkins, and co-directed by part-time theatre assistant Frank Rosales.

The play itself was first performed on Oct. 27, 2006, in Lansing, Michigan. The fine arts department at JJC has preparing to put on this play for the past couple of weeks, putting in countless hours of rehearsal and dedication. The play consisted of a small cast with a total of only seven cast members that made an appearance throughout the entire show. The characters consisted of students from JJC and other surrounding colleges.

Some of the things I noticed opening night was the overwhelming amount of laughter during the entire show. I took note of the acting, jokes and cues used during the show as well. I also paid attention to the audience's reaction when jokes were told, or a character/s were

being sarcastic.

The plot of the story was one that was very interesting. In the show there were a bunch of plot twists, secrets and mysteries that took place. The story took place in a motel, with the stage set up with two beds and two different rooms that were connected by a door in the middle. Each of the rooms had a bathroom and a closet.

The character Erick (Kelley Beggs), was partnered with Officer Billie (Ashley Billings) and in accomplice with the accountant, Karen (Amy Zajac). The beginning of the play opens with Erick being woken up by his police chief on the phone. He then gets a knock at the door from Billie, who brings him donuts.

The three of them were in the motel the night before to set up a video camera in Karen's suite. Karen was supposed to have a conversation with the Mayor (Josh Ariva) to talk about missing funds and mob ties. The plan was to catch the Mayor admitting to his fraudulent behavior, but that quickly took an interesting turn.

Then Erick knocks on the door of the accountant to remind her of the interview she is supposed

to have with the Mayor. Once they're all ready and up, we then enter the scene where the Mayor is introduced. He enters confused as to why they are having a meeting in a motel, but he is willing to talk, and he seems innocent. While in the middle of the Mayor and accountant talking someone is banging on the door.

There is a scene where Agent Frank (Clint Chesire) is first introduced to the audience. Frank then comes in and inspects the room, claiming to be a protector of the Mayor. Frank then looks for recording devices and hidden video cameras, but he finds nothing. His character stands out for his authenticity because he is playing someone who is supposed to be the tough guy, but the audience soon finds out that he is indeed the opposite. Frank then tells everyone about the so-called Scotsman who is supposedly out to get the Mayor.

The name of the Scotsman is Todd, (Ben Davis). Todd then shows up and ties up Billie in a later scene, and plans to kill her. The audience then finds out that Frank is working for the Scotsman, not the Mayor. Mysteriously, when the Mayor leaves the room his wife, Mary

(Savana Alexis) periodically makes an appearance claiming to not know where her husband is at.

The humor and mystery of the situation is that every time the Mayor leaves, his wife appears. But the audience will soon learn that all the characters will soon all have connections to each other, and the story line will come full circle.

The revealing scene ends with the audience finding out that the Mayor's wife was married to Todd and runs a whole scheme business behind her husband's back. The Mayor's wife, the Scotsman and Frank are then arrested after a hostile confrontation scene. Erick, Billie and Karen all help expose the crooks who were trying to ruin the Mayors good name.

I was impressed with way the stage was set up and the acting was amazing. Many moments throughout the show were hilarious. The play overall was filled with sarcasm, jokes and humor which I love. The show would not have been as good without the good effects done by the lighting, sound and production crew. I overall would give this play a 9/10 and a thumbs up.

Upcoming Mens Basketball Schedule

Dec. 6 7:30 p.m. @ Olivet Nazarene
University (ILL.)(JV)

Dec. 11 7:00 p.m. VS Robert Morris
University (ILL) (JV)

Dec. 13 7:00 p.m. VS Truman College

Dec. 18 6:30 p.m. @ Lake Michigan College

Dec. 29 3:00 p.m. @ Elgin Community College

Jan 3. 7:30 p.m. @ Madison College

Men's from page 1

with 22 points, four steals, four assists, four rebounds, and shot 87.5% from the free throw line. He is averaging 16.8 points per game, 3.8 rebounds per game, and 2.2 assists per game.

Shorewood's Jaylen Jones put up 21 points for himself against the Panthers. In addition, Jones had three assists, three steals, and 5 rebounds. Jones is averaging 13.1 points per game, 3.9 rebounds per game, and 4.3 assists per game.

Lemont's Bobby Shurilla earned himself a double-double this game with 12 points and 13 rebounds. Shurilla is shooting 60.9% in field goals and

averages 5.1 rebounds per game.

Overall as a team, Joliet's men's basketball is currently averaging 72.4 points per game, 69.5% from the foul line, averaging 36.3 rebounds per game, and 12.1 assists per game.

The Wolves will need to step up their game soon if they hope to end the season on a high note. As the season continues, they hope to improve their gameplay with plenty of games to do just that with 20 still remaining at this time. The Wolves basketball will have their next home game on Dec. 11 against Robert Morris University at 7 p.m.

Volleyball season ends, sends two players to All-Region Team, All-Conference Team

By Jessica Mack

Co-Editor

The Joliet Junior College women's volleyball team ended their season with a loss at the Region IV Semifinal Tournament Semifinal hosted by Harper College.

The ladies were 21-14 for the season overall while earning a spot in national rankings twice. It was a widely successful season for the Lady Wolves volleyball team.

The ladies ended up being the fourth seed in the Region IV Tournament and hosted number five Elgin. In the first game of the Region IV Quarterfinal Tournament against Elgin, the Wolves dominated in the sets and came out victorious.

Freshman Shea Kielydyk lead the team with 12 kills while Sophomore Isabella Cosentino lead with 26 assists that game. Kielydyk had 230 kills overall for the season.

In the Region IV Semifinal, the Lady Wolves went up against tough rival number one see Rock Valley College. Despite their

efforts, they lost in the sets 0-3, eliminating them.

Sophomore Cuay Whitener had a solid nine kills while Kielydyk was right behind Whitener with seven kills. Cosentino had 18 assists for the team as well.

Whitener and Cosentino were named to the All-Region IV Team and the NC4 All-Conference in the North Central Community College Conference in October shortly before the end of their official season.

Whitener is an outside hitter and had a total of 394 kills for her offense and 391 digs for her

defense for the season. Setter Cosentino led the Wolves with 20 double-doubles and has 930 assists overall for the team. Both performed exceptionally well this season and are well-deserving of their accomplishments thus far.

Despite their tournament loss, the girls were dedicated and proved themselves to be tough competition under first-year head coach Dan Brown. They will prepare for next year and hope to improve even more.



Cuay Whitener



Isabella Cosentino

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Sports

Lady Wolves rolling; record goes to 7-1 after winning streak

By Ricky Saravia

Sports Editor

This season, Joliet Junior College's Lady Wolves are bringing the heat with a major winning streak for the past few games being 7-1.

The Lady Wolves are currently averaging 74.6 points a game, along with 15 assists and 49 rebounds per game.

Recently, they played versus Morton College and managed to come ahead with a score of 92-81 at the Event Center at JJC. They have now won five games in a row. Madison Harris lead the team in points with a record-

high of 17 while Dasia Norris lead in rebounds with 11.

In another one of their recent games versus Kankakee Community College, they took home the victory with a final score of 62-52 on the homecourt.

This win, however, was not only a great contributor to the team's seasonal record but it was a huge milestone victory for the women's basketball program.

"This is my 11th year as the coach, and that is the first time we have beaten Kankakee," JJC womens basketball coach Shaun Sanderson said proudly. "I know it didn't happen in the previous 14 years before me, so tonight is

a big win for our program."

JJC started the game off strong due to a quick 12-0 run in the first quarter. Unfortunately, Kankakee was able to catch up by the end of the quarter with the score at 13-10. Luckily, the Wolves had the advantage going into the second quarter.

With only minutes left until half-time, the Wolves extended the lead to 22-10. Both teams showed their talents in the first half with baskets being scored on both ends of the court.

At half-time, the score was 34-24 with Joliet on top, a result of the presence of Joliet West graduate Kierra Tyler with 12 points, four assists, and three steals, and Bolingbrook's Talia Edwards who finished the game with 14 points and a whopping 21 rebounds!

"The easiest thing to do is work hard," Edwards said. "I knew tonight without Emily [Atsinger] in the lineup I would have to try and pick up the slack scoring... we take one game at a time, and we must build off each game. I'm happy with the win, but know it's on to the next game."

JJC was able to keep the Kankakee Cavaliers subdued for the remainder of the game and took home the victory. With multiple players contributing offensively and defensively, victory was the only possibility.

Edwards not only had a good game, but she is having an exceptional sophomore season as well.

After the end of the postseason last year, Edwards was selected to participate in the NJCAA All-Star game. She is averaging 8.9 rebounds per game, 11.6 points per game, 10 assists for the season and 11 steals.

This year, surrounded by strong teammates, she's ready to dominate.

At their recent game against Olive-Harvey college, they



Photo by Nicole Bertic

Maya Creal drives hard to get around the opponent.



Photo by Nicole Bertic

Amil Mitchell dribbles while surveying her options.

continued their rampage and came out with a score of 95-32. Kike Oje lead the team with seven out of 45 rebounds. Amil Mitchell went on to score 21 points while Tyler and Maiya Creal both lead the team with five assists.

The team looks to improve and prepare themselves for the rest of the season by focusing on their defense, but overall by just working as a team.

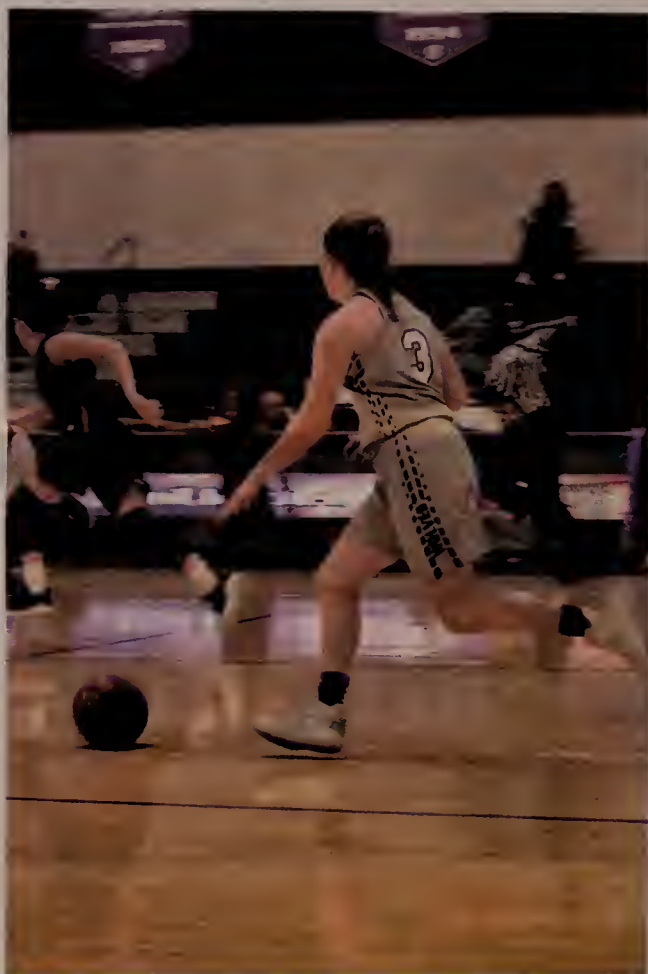


Photo by Nicole Bertic

Emily Atsinger brings the ball up the court.

Mens Basketball Isaiah Clemons



Freshman Isaiah Clemons currently averages 16.1 points per game with 129 points scored overall thus far. His game high score of 23 points was against Richard J. Daley College. He also has an average of 3.6 rebounds per game with 29 total so far.

Womens Basketball Talia Edwards



Sophomore Talia Edwards has a game high of 23 points against Anoka-Ramsey Community college. Her average points per game is 11.6 with her overall number of points scored this season thus far being 93. She also has 71 total rebounds for the season while her game high against Kankakee was 21.